

Catch the scent of spring along the old incense road in the Western Hills.

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She might look like a student, but this young woman is founder of a web-design studio.

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These rare treasures can now be seen only in China.

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## Premier Calls for Reform

Special attention should be paid to providing help to urban and rural residents in need, increasing farmers' income and transforming government functions, Premier Zhu Rongji said on Wednesday.

Measures must be taken to assist poverty-stricken rural population and ensure the basic living standards of both urban and rural residents.

The salaries of public servants and teachers must be paid in full and on time in all localities, the Premier told a group of legislators from Hunan and Shanxi.

After listening to the opinions of the legislators, Zhu said that to strengthen agriculture and increase farmers' income, the direct and most effective way is to quicken the pace of returning farmland to forests wherever it is necessary. This will help restructure the rural economy, adjust grain demand and supply and price and improve the ecological environment.

The Premier also called on government officials to improve their work style and concentrate their efforts on creating a sound environment for economic development.

The legislators or deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC) are here attending the annual session of the Ninth NPC, which began Tuesday.

(Xinhua)

## High-tech Hoedown on Horizon

By Xiao Rong

The first-ever China Patent Invention Fair will debut at the fifth session of China Beijing International Science-Tech Industries Expo held between May 23-28.

The expo, known as Beijing International High-Tech Industries Week since 1998, has been renamed China Beijing International Science-Tech Industries Expo & China Beijing International High-Tech Industries Week.

This new name comes after China's entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the city's successful Olympic bid.

Patent technologies and products around China will be on display at the fair. The Individual Invention Fair, which aroused attention last year, will be enlarged to become the Creative Technology Exhibition for Individuals and Medium & Small Enterprises, revealed the expo organizing committee.

"We aim to encourage initiative spirit among medium and small enterprises as well as individuals, which are key factors for the development of China," said Liu Zhihua, city vice mayor at the press conference of the organizing committee last Friday.

Through exhibitions, forums, trade talks, international conferences and online exchanges, the expo will focus on promotion of Beijing's Olympic ideals and how China will face up to the challenge of joining the WTO.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic construction projects will be specifically outlined for the first time to the world. So far, governmental and commercial delegations from more than 30 countries or regions have confirmed attendance at the expo. Domestic high-tech companies and organizations from more than 20 provinces have also applied to participate.

# It's a Girl! Plus a boy, a girl, a girl, and a boy

By Su Wei

**I**t took 30 minutes. First came twins: a girl and a boy. Third and fourth, twin girls.

For a final encore, a boy. Delivery lasted two minutes.

All cried immediately. All had no problems with their breathing.

The youngest boy weighs 1,820 grams (about 4 pounds). The third sister is 1,490 grams (about 3 pounds, 5 ounces). The rest are in between.

The three girls are all taller than 30 centimeters. Both boys are slightly taller than 40 centimeters.

The news that Wang Cuiying, 33, had given birth to quintuplets 7:43 am on Monday brought reporters to the Beijing Maternity Hospital from Shanghai, Tianjin and Guangzhou among other lower birthrate places.

More than 40 TV, radio and newspaper hacks were mulling around the hospital entrance east of the Forbidden City, as Jiao Baocun appeared.

"What about the condition of the mother and the children?"

"Are you excited?"

"Have you named the children?"

The father at first beamed at the lights and microphones, then began to tire under interrogation. Later, he told *Beijing Today* he remains confident all five will survive.

"I hope my wife and my children will be healthy and safe and leave the hospital happily."

No names yet. "It's very complicated," said Jiao.

**Eight weeks early**

The nameless bounced into this world with unusual haste.

The induced cesarean operation had to be moved up to 7 am, two hours earlier than expected as the contractions accelerated around midnight on Sunday.

Wang never had to worry about a hemorrhage.

Dr Zhai Guirong put the successful surgery down to thorough preparation and Wang's sound state of mind.

"It was very important for the operation that Wang remained calm and that the rate of contractions was high," he said.

**25 doctors and nurses**

Dr Zhai, the hospital obstetrics and gynecology department director, removed them 7:43-7:45 am.

Agreement last Thursday had been reached by all doctors and nurses involving from the ward, the department and the hospital. One director and one



Wang Cuiying can still smile after five babies (see below)

Photos by Jacky

attending doctor acted as Dr Zhai's assistants and one vice director was responsible for any emergency.

"Each midwife and each pediatrician was responsible for one infant," she said.

Anesthetists and other nurses watched over equipment and the operation. "We even invited the director of the department of anesthesia of Chaoyang Hospital and the director of the department of internal medicine of Jishuitan Hospital."

Asked to comment on the

such as weak resistance, also occurred with the quintuplets. The first and third child had their breathing stop momentarily on Monday night.

For the next two to three weeks, the infants will remain in incubators under 24-hour monitoring for breathing problems, infection and jaundice.

They will not be discharged until their weight reaches around 2,300 grams (about 5 pounds).

Wang, though afterwards weak, remained lucid. She still has no breast milk. Nurses inject

breast milk donated by other mothers into the infants' stomachs through a catheter every two to three hours.

The youngest boy can ingest nearly 10 milliliters a shot, but the fourth girl so far manages 3 or 4 ml.

**One ton of milk powder**

Beijingers brought flowers, feeding bottles and milk powder to the hospital. Middle school students came to the hospital and donated five feeding bottles and milk powder, a gesture which moved Wang. About 1,000 kilos of milk powder for the children until they are 7 years old has been donated by the Yili Group of Inner Mongolia, with 50,000 yuan in medical treatment expenses.

The hospital public relations official said breast milk was a better choice.

"If the mother still does not

have breast milk when she goes home," she said, "she definitely needs the milk powder. Even if she has breast milk, it is still impossible for her to breast-feed all the children."

But a Mr Ren was also reported as saying sponsorship set a dangerous precedent. "Even the parents should not seek sponsorship from the enterprise," he said.

The Yili employee said he had approached the family to negotiate terms even before birth.

"We think there is nothing wrong," he said. "This is quite common practice. Our requirements are not as strict as others."

He said the father had told him other companies had made donations conditional upon the survival of all the infants.

"Could you tell me what are my other alternatives?" said Jiao. He did not say how to raise five babies in the future.

No government regulations exist in one-child China to meet the expenses of so many children. Nor are there policies to call on society in support of such families. Different regions have different allowances for families. Jiao and Wang home's province - Hebei - has no policy.

Last time anything like this happened was December 31, 1952. Jin Huzhu, Jin Tuanjie and Jin Huai became famous. Premier Zhou Enlai once famously inquired after the triplets' health.

Medical experts commented that environmental pollution, excess fertility medicine and the abuse of artificial insemination can lead to such cases of multiple births.



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# Beijing Dumps Public Toilet Fees

By Xiao Rong

Public toilets in Beijing are now open to the public free of charge, marking the end of the 20-year history of the city's charging for its public toilets.

Beginning from March 1, the new practice, which is the first of its kind in China, covers the 481 toilets in the eight districts of the city, including that of the subway, railway stations and scenic spots.

"It's really good news, we needn't bring so much change with us any more to use the toilets," said

a woman on the street. On the other hand, there were some other patrons who didn't seem to believe in the new regulation.

"Although we won't be charged to use the toilets, will we still enjoy the same comfortable and clean environment as before?" was the comment of one citizen who raised his doubts.

What this reporter saw in some toilets on a main street might help to relieve patrons' worries. Clean as usual, the toilets' staff had removed the signboards that had displayed the

former fee. Some travelers, however, still tried to find some pocket money while stepping through the entrance.

The Municipal Administrative Management Committee also promised to provide excellent service at all locations. All the staff who were responsible for collecting fees before, will undertake the duty of daily maintenance, said Liang Guangsheng, vice director of the committee.

"Beijing has been charging for its public toilets since the 1980s, to raise funds for its development.

Bu only three or four public toilets located at busy commercial centers make a profit," said Liang. "The annual income of 5 million yuan coming from the toilet fees proved to exert certain inconveniences for the citizens instead of making contributions to the city's infrastructure construction."

The ending of fees for public toilets in Beijing marks the globalization of China's civil administration, which will benefit Beijingers, as well as travelers from home and abroad, by really opening the public

utilities to the public," said Professor Zhou Xiaozheng of Renmin University.

Of the 4731 public toilets that have been constructed by the municipal government, 481 have achieved a certain standard, and will be free of charge. There are, however, three other kinds of public toilets that will continue to have a user's fee, according to the Administration. These include high-tech wash-free toilets, mobile toilets for rent and automatically-charged toilets in the subway.



The Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) opened an office in Beijing yesterday in a bid to build closer ties with the central government and the Chinese Mainland  
Photo by Qu Liyan

## Blocked E-mail Rumor Unrealistic

By Shan Jinliang

"It is impossible to block all Chinese e-mails," said Wang (who declined to be fully named) from the Ministry of Information Industry, on the rumor that Europe and North America might refuse all e-mails from China.

According to a recent report named "Internet Split" by Southern Weekend, a nationwide weekly, European and American ISPs (Internet Service Provider) are likely to screen all the e-mail servers of China.

"A new great wall is being built, this time across the Internet. ... the wall could eventually cut off much of the e-mail communications between the East and the West," said a February report by US Wired magazine cited by Southern Weekend. The report has aroused attention from both Chinese websites and newspapers.

The Southern Weekend report cited the claim last August by a famous anti-Asian spam website, saying it will block the majority of Chinese e-mails as China is the fastest growing source of spam on the web.

Believing that the overall screening of Chinese e-mails would be disastrous to international exchanges, Wang says China will not sit silently while its foreign exchanges are cut.

However, "It is not too serious an issue," said the official, "Though some IP addresses are blocked, they only constitute a small percentage of China's net, not the whole thing."

Wang's comments are echoed by Chinese experts. "It is absolutely impossible to isolate China on the Internet today when the exchange of information is so frequent," said Yang Lu, a computer specialist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The blocking of junk mails by big ISPs such as yahoo.com and hotmail.com will not be so great, so the screening will not be as severe as people expect," said Chen Leihua, CTO (Chief Technology Officer) of tebie.com, the system developer and server of 163.com and 263.com.

"Most of the bulk mails are not sent by Chinese people," said Mr. Linford, managing director of Ultradesign, a small London-based Internet service provider and anti-spam website. "The majority of it is sent by American spammers via Chinese servers, which makes it seem that the spammers are all Chinese."

One of the key causes for the flood is that China does not have a history of serious legal punishments for spammers, leading a large number of Western spammers to produce junk through Chinese servers, says an analyst from 163.com. He added that the relative backwardness of Chinese ISPs should also be blamed, for they seldom check the identities of e-mail senders. Others recommend that the skills of China's internet administrators need improving.

On the steps the government will take to combat the spam, another unnamed official from the Ministry of Information Industry said: "How can you prevent them (bulk mails) when you can hardly determine if it is spam, or useful for the receiver?"

"The government should publish a national law regarding bulk mail to safeguard the interests of Chinese web surfers," said Zeng Xiaozheng, a professor and national legislator from Jilin Province.

## Golden Arches to Fall

Experts say it will clean up streets

By Shan Jinliang

Beijing will tear down 30 outdoor "M-shaped" signs out of the 81 McDonald's chain stores around the city in an effort to beautify the capital.

It is part of a move to implement the new regulation that aims to beautify the city by the Municipal Administrative Management Committee. The regulation says that only one outdoor billboard for every store

is allowed, unless the district government permits a second one under special circumstances.

Having commenced on February 27, the new regulation will cover more than the Golden Arches; it also includes the big billboards of "A&W", "Shunfeng", a Chinese restaurant, Huangcheng Roast Duck Restaurant and thousands of other illegal billboards of different businesses. "At least 200,000 illegal billboards will

be dismantled, according to our preliminary prediction," said Guo Weidong, chief of the publicity section of the committee.

"Self-standing billboards have seen an explosion in the last few years, with some huge ones obstructing views and even disrupting the entire image and style of an area," said Liang Guangsheng, vice director of the committee, describing the reasoning behind the regulation. Some signs serve as obstacles to the city's transport while others block the sun from reaching the roadside greenery; both of which has aroused opposition from the public.

"It will make the streets nicer and I will support the decision," said Li Mingtao, an architecture expert who worries about the affect on the ancient capital's sights by the sea of commercials. In support of the idea, he said that the city has already demolished billboards on Changan Avenue, a move that has greatly improved Beijing's main thoroughfare.

Zhao Pu, a McDonald's regular, says it is not necessary to dismantle all of the signs of fast-food chains. He agrees, however, that those in historical places of interests, such as the one near Houhai in Xicheng District, have always been eyesores and should be taken down.

"Beijing should have more commercials rather than fewer ones, but the key problem is how to manage them," said Yu Junbo, another expert. "Good commercials can lighten up a city."

"McDonald's is a law-obeying company and all of their signs were built after receiving permission from the government; we will follow the new regulation since it has been altered," said Cai Weiqian, a vice-president of McDonald's (China). He said it would be a pity for the business, as 70% of consumers come to the store after being attracted by the "M" sign.

Some experts said that the dismantling of the signs may negatively affect the businesses of the city, and they hope that the government will consider the interests of companies when publishing a new policy.



One of the world's most recognizable eyesores, this one at Fangzhuang, is torn down  
Photo by Huo Lei

## City Standardizes Foreign Expert Employment Qualifications

By Xiao Rong

Beijing's foreign experts in cultural and educational fields are ensured a more standard environment as the city launches a stricter qualification approval system for organizations that employ them.

Five out of the total 182 domestic organizations in the city have been deprived of qualifications of employing foreign experts during the annual inspection and 164 of them remain valid, revealed the Foreign Office of the Beijing Municipality.

The Office suggested foreign experts who want to work in Beijing should serve for those organizations that conform to the regulations for employing foreign professionals.

A specially printed contract instead of its copy is required when an Expert Certificate is approved by the local authorities to those experts of overseas organizations. An appendix covering the working duties, envi-

ronment, payments and other specifications should also be included.

The minimum monthly pay to foreign experts in China is 2,200 yuan, while a flexible pay can be considered under different circumstances, according to the Office.

Although those organizations that can be approved to employ foreign experts must be registered every year for the qualification, it's not a permanent one, according to the Office. A list of the organizations that are qualified will be announced this month.

For further consultation on foreign experts, the Office recommended the two following domestic intermediate organizations: Beijing APEC International Education Training Center (e-mail: apec2000@china.com Tel: 010-64295624, 64295634 Fax: 010-64278491); Beijing Educational Foreign Exchange Service Center (Tel: 010-66074201, 66074295 Fax: 010-66074841)

## Beijing Hukou Embraces Children

By Wang Ling

Children of school age are now permitted to be registered in Beijing following their fathers' permanent residence (hukou), which constitutes a big step in the city's permanent residence system.

Around 4,500 children have already settled in Beijing this way, said Meng Fanrong, deputy director of the population administration department of Beijing Public Security Bureau, at last Sunday's online consultation conference.

Prior to this, a child's hukou was only related to the status of his/her mother's permanent residence.

The monthly fee for temporary residence permits was also abolished as of the beginning of this March.

"The new change is part of the ongoing reform in the permanent residence system," commented Bao Suixian, a senior official of the Ministry of Public Security. He also stated that drafting for the new "Permanent Residence Law" is under way.

Bao insisted that the system will not be abolished. He said that the hukou system is a result of China's planned economy and is vital in tracking population flows. There will continue to be certain restrictions for those without a hukou. For example, if you live in Beijing without a Beijing hukou, you can't hold a credit card or a passport and your children will have difficulties in going to school. Authorities recognize that the above restrictions, along with the general lack of flexibility in the system, have led to attacks against the hukou regulations and are a main focus of the new reforms.

## Blood Banks Built to Curb AIDS

By Shan Jinliang

China will aid in the construction of blood banks across the country by investing 2.25 billion yuan to ensure safe blood transfusions and to prevent HIV/AIDS.

The fund, consisting of 1.25 billion yuan from the Central National Debt and 1 billion yuan from local auxiliary capital, will mainly deal with improving the level of technology used by blood collecting and testing organizations. The project will cover the building and refurbishing of 29 blood centers at the provincial level, 289 in the cities and 141 in the western regions. The construction is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. Currently there are only about 300 blood banks among China's more than 600 cities.

China hopes to form a safe and efficient nationwide blood collecting and supplying network, basically guaranteeing that clinically tested blood will be used in 85% of the country. The move is expected to reduce the annual rate of new HIV infections from 30-40% to 10%, while cutting the chances of contracting the disease through clinical blood transfusions to under 1/1,000,000.

## Illegal Foreign Bank Banned by PBC

By Xiao Rong

An illegal China office of the European Trust Bank (which was unaware of the existence of the supposed branch) was banned by the People's Bank of China (PBC) Wednesday, in accordance with the country's "Administrative Regulations on the China Office of Foreign Financial Institutions".

This has been the first illegal activity in the name of a foreign financial institution since China's entry to the WTO.

The so-called China Office of the European Trust Bank, located at Beijing Henderson Commercial Center, was actually run by two men who claimed to be able to provide overseas investments to clients, according to PBC's investigation.

Any forms of financial activities related with the so-called China Office of the bank will be prohibited and all relevant legal contracts signed in the name of the office will be abolished.

PBC suggested that domestic enterprises should keep alert when cooperating with foreign banks during the current transitional period.

## State Starts Anti-dumping Investigation

China will start an anti-dumping investigation against India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), all of which are accused of dumping the chemical phthalic anhydride (used in plastics) onto China's market.

On Wednesday, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) announced and initiated the probe into the illegal dumping.

MOFTEC and the Chinese Customs Service will make inquiries into the case according to China's rules on anti-dumping. At the same time, the State Council and Trade Commission and other authorities of the State Council will look into any damage to China's industries caused by the dumping.

The investigation is expected to end within a year, but may be extended to 18 months under special circumstances.

China's Anti-dumping Statute, which includes regulations concerning dumping and damage, anti-dumping measures and an anti-dumping tax, came into effect on January 1, 2002. (Xinhua)

## Mercedes-Benz Takes Top Honors in South China

By Jiang Zhong

More than 30,000 car owners in the Pearl River Delta (Guangdong Province) voted Mercedes-Benz their vehicle of choice in a survey carried out from December 19, 2001, to January 1, 2002 by Guangzhou Auto Sales Industry Bureau.

The latest award comes as Chinese consumers are purchasing Mercedes-Benz vehicles in record numbers. More than 8,000 units were sold in China in 2001. Industry analysts expect luxury-car sales to rise further this year following the elimination of the 30% luxury-car tariff in China on January 1.

Professions were varied among the 32,714 voters, ranging from entrepreneurs and business owners to specialists, managers, professionals and government officials. They listed vehicle safety, comfort, design, after-sales service and fuel consumption as key factors behind their decision.

## Dow Jones Links with Xinhua

By Zhao Hongyi

Chinese readers will have access to more financial news under an agreement signed March 1 between Dow Jones Newswires and Xinhua Online Information and Technology.

Under the agreement, Xinhua Online will redistribute select news content from Dow Jones Newswires, the real-time electronic-publishing unit of Dow Jones. Detailed content will derive from Dow Jones Newswires Financial Wire, Chinese Financial Wire and selected newsletters such as the Dow Jones Microchip Report. Chinese readers will receive news packages via fax, mail or a password-protected website.

The agreement follows a series of commercial reforms. The Chinese government recently allowed AOL-Warner owned China Entertainment Television (CETV) to broadcast programs through local cable networks in Guangdong province.

## Alcatel DSL Becomes Global Market Leader

By Yang Xiao

Alcatel continues to lead the worldwide market for digital subscriber line equipment according to industry analysts, the Dell'Oro Group.

With a 38.2 percent share of cumulative port shipments through 2001, Alcatel's DSL market share is over three times that of its nearest competitor. As evidence of its worldwide market leadership, Alcatel held the number one market share in every regional market tracked by the Dell'Oro Group.

The Alcatel 7300 Advanced Services Access Manager (ASAM), the world's most widely deployed broadband access platform, is prominent in the networks of over fifty of the world's largest service providers, delivering business and residential broadband services.

Alcatel's commitment to extending the reach of broadband access is reflected in our continued global market leadership," said Michel Ravier, president of Alcatel's broadband networking activities. "Alcatel clearly dominates the global market for DSL equipment and, with the recent enhancements to the Alcatel 7300 ASAM that open the door to advanced business and broadband entertainment services, the stage is set for further growth in 2002."

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# PC Maker Eyes Cell Phone Market

By Zhao Yijiang

Top China personal computer maker Legend Holdings (HKSE: 0992) has announced agreements with Texas Instruments (NYSE: TXN) and Xoceco (SSE: 600870), one of China's leading wireless handset manufacturers, to form a new joint venture to develop handsets based on Texas Instruments' wireless chipset solutions. The announcement is in line with Legend's commitment to providing wireless voice and multimedia-centric applications on handheld devices, in addition to data.

### Largest market, and the most crowded

China is the world's largest cell phone market, with 144.8 million users at the end of last year. The market potential for mobile handsets in China is huge. In 2001, about 46.55 million mobile handsets were sold. According to the Ministry of Information Industry, the demand is expected to grow at a rate of over 30% during the next three years.

So far, foreign brands such as Nokia of Finland, Ericsson of Sweden and US-based Motorola have dominated the market for handsets with a collective two thirds of the market in China. While just 11 percent of handsets sold in China last year were domestic brands, market share for local players is growing, according to JP Morgan. "All the foreign names are losing market share except Nokia, Motorola and Samsung," says analyst Johnny Chan.

Yang Yuanqing, president and CEO of Legend Holdings, shares the same view. "There is a lot of room for the mobile handset market to grow in China and for companies to make profits from it.

As mobile technologies become more mature, local brands are going to dominate the market," says the man who led Legend to outpace foreign competitors and become China's leading PC manufacturer.



Legend PC retail dealer Duan Juntao cannot leave his mobile phone alone

Photo by Chen Shuyi

### Partnership with Xoceco

The Legend /Xoceco joint venture will engage in R&D, manufacture and sale of mobile handsets in China. New products, mostly high and mid-end mobile handsets, will start rolling out in June this year.

The partnership calls for a total investment of 150 million yuan (\$18.12 million), of which 90 million yuan (\$10.87 million) will come from Legend, which will hold a 60 percent stake.

The remaining 40 percent stake will be owned by Xoceco, which will provide 60 million yuan (\$7.25 million) in the form of mobile handset production lines and related equipment, R&D facilities, raw materials and fin-

ished products. The net amount will be paid in cash.

Leveraging Xoceco's network of 28 offices in various Chinese cities, 1,000 distributors, 28 customer service centers, and 180 authorized maintenance centers as well as Legend's sales and service networks, the joint venture will have an extensive sales and service network covering the entire country, according to Legend.

"(This allows) us to leverage (Legend's) advantages on branding, management, product development, sales and distribution capability and existing customer base," said Guo Zeli, general manager of Xoceco.

Yang said the alliance with Xoceco, one of China's largest elec-

tronic products export companies, was made under the consideration that the company already has a strong mobile handset business.

### The TI lineup

The wireless handset industry is heading for a new era of competition as component suppliers and software vendors rush to intercept the convergence of cell phones and handheld computers.

Legend's strategic alliance with Texas Instruments will enable the computer maker to make use of TI's wireless chipset technology to power Legend mobile handset, and TI's application processors to power a set of its next-generation mobile Internet-

access devices.

Legend and TI will also explore opportunities for design and development of short distance wireless, wireless local area network (LAN) and other telecommunication products. "Our relationship with Legend is built on a long-standing and solid foundation beginning with the collaboration in ADSL modems and many Internet access products," said Terry Cheng, president of TI Asia.

The long-awaited move turned on a new profit engine for Legend at a time when growth of its PC sales is slowing.

In Hong Kong, shares in Legend surged some three percent following the announcement.

## Railcom Launches Cheaper IP Card

By Shan Jinliang

Railcom, China's newest telecom dealer introduced the country's first IP card that does not charge a local call fee this week.

City Express will be the cheapest card in the long-distance call market. The card user does not need to pay the local fee for domestic long-distance calls, a saving of 0.11 yuan per minute. The fee for long distance calls is 0.06 yuan per six seconds from 8 pm to 10 pm, 0.03 yuan per 6 seconds less than the promotional fees offered by China Telecom for the 193 long distance calls last year.

Two days before the announcement of the new cards, City Express cards were available at the Yimeijia Stamp and Coin Market. Stall holder's even posted signs saying "no more domestic fares".

Analysts say Railcom is seeking to compete with China Telecom in the IP card market, however some warn that it could be a risky strategy to compete in the niche market, as high profits are scarce in the non-mobile call market.

## P4 Comes to Mobile PCs

By Yang Xiao

Intel announced Monday that it is bringing its flagship Pentium 4 processor technology to notebooks for the first time. With the introduction of the mobile Intel P4 processor-M, designed specifically for notebooks, PC makers are delivering full-size and thin-and-light systems with outstanding performance, long battery life and wireless capabilities.

Intel also announced the mobile Intel 845 chipset family, supporting double data rate (DDR) memory. Together, the new processor and chipset deliver a significant boost in performance while maintaining low average power consumption, helping to deliver extended battery life. The new products are shipping in volume worldwide with systems available from leading PC makers.

## CONSUMER INDUSTRY

# Corruption Claims Dog Procter and Gamble

By Jiao Pei

The issue of illegal sales commissions at Procter and Gamble (P&G) came to light recently when the company sent letters to its supplier dealers asking them to report to managers who had received or demanded such under the table payments.

According to the latest issue of 21CN Business Herald, P&G (China) wrote to its major supplier dealers to reaffirm regulations on its employees accepting gifts, entertainment and other benefits. The letter says, "We hope our supplier dealers would inform us if any of our employees had acted counter to these policies, such as receiving illegal sales commissions. P&G will terminate business exchanges with any dealers who do not do so."

When questioned about the issue by Beijing Today, P&G China's vice-president of public relations Pei Yiqun said, "Our company has two basic rules. One is that we have no duty to disclose any matters between the company and the employees, the other is that we have no duty to disclose any matters between the company and supplier dealers."

### "Oil of Olay incident" highlights the hearsay of the corruption

According to the Herald, on September 30th last year, P&G China's Marketing Manager, senior manager of Human Resources Gao Junhua and Safety Manager Yang Xin caught a senior manager whom they had suspected of accepting a payment from the Oil of Olay supplier at the Guangzhou Garden Hotel. He was estimated to have pocketed a total of over 1 million yuan.



P&G products hold a leading position in Chinese daily life

around it, according to the Herald. But it says this system is the chief cause of corruption, because it gives too much power to the managers. But P&G maintains this system is essential to the success of P&G. In fact, P&G has put in place certain restrictions, such as requiring sales income beyond the approved to be reported to the Department of Marketing. However this seems to have had little effect. In the company's realignment plan for 2005, the Brand Manager System may be scrapped.

### Does corruption affect the market share?

Corruption in P&G has greatly affected the company's competitive power, said the Herald. Pei Yiqun, denies this completely. "From 1988, our marketing share has been increasing stably. The allegations about reduced market share come from nowhere."

However P&G's total sales amounted to about 9 billion in 1997, and it was almost the same in 2001. In real terms, this shows the absolute market share has fallen.

Claims similar to those that have surfaced around P&G are not rare in transnational corporations.

Beijing Youth Daily reported last year about an employee of a well-known U.S. tech company who was suspended from his post due to corruption. Transnational corporations are usually highly regarded for their strict management systems and operating mechanisms, however allegations of the kind of stories seem to be increasingly common place.

# Overseas Chinese Come Back Looking for Action

Zhongguancun Science Park attracts delegations of entrepreneurs

By Shan Jinliang

Seeking opportunity, two flocks of overseas Chinese students – 22 from the USA and 17 from Japan – touched down in “China’s Silicon Valley” last week.

They represent only a small slice of the overseas Chinese talent returning since Zhongguancun Science Park began active recruitment in the ‘90s.

More than 4,000 returning students have come to the park for business consultation and two dozen overseas delegations have returned from other countries. Almost 400 teams obtained business licences last year.

The two groups include 40

projects, mostly their own intellectual property including information technology, microelectronics, new materials, bio-medicine and wireless telecommunications. More than half have doctorates.

Zhongguancun opportunities appear more plentiful to them than in Japan. Yu Quanwen of the Japanese delegation said the business environment is important. Clear, efficient administration, the improving legal environment, the entrepreneurial spirit and fair-minded scientific research opportunities are all enticements, he said.

Yao Yi of the Japanese delegation said he came to hunt for

talent. He planned to find a Tsinghua University student to conduct research in the company.

As the largest of such parks in China, Haidian Start-up Park for Overseas Chinese has received 108 companies. Zhongguancun has established three overseas Chinese student liaison centers in California’s Silicon Valley, Tokyo and Amsterdam. The Japanese delegation’s visit was arranged by the Tokyo center. Two more offices will be set up in Canada and on the east coast of the USA.

To enhance investment, the industrial and commercial departments of the city have put

forward reforms of the registration process for high-tech companies: no more checking of the business, less than 1 million yuan registration capital can be paid in stages and the biggest shareholder can hold more than 95 percent of the stock.

Haidian District, where Zhongguancun Science Park is located, has opened an enterprise service center where companies can file registration, check-and-approval materials and read laws and regulations via the Internet, reducing the registration period. With procedures fully prepared, licences can be issued in five working days for an ordinary company, two days

for high-tech companies, one day for overseas Chinese-run companies.

Zhongguancun has also begun its first start-up assistance projects for returning Chinese students in January this year, and the national trial of China’s first credit system for companies in the science park since November.

Insiders say preferential policies can work for a certain period. The start-up environment should be established in accordance with international principles. Only a fair environment will attract more students to conduct business in the park.

## \$11.2 Billion Ad Market

By Zhao Hongyi

China’s overall advertising market surged to 92.4 billion yuan (US\$11.2 billion) last year, an annual increase of 16 percent, according to an AC Nielsen report.

Domestic companies placed more advertising last year than their overseas peers.

Local brands ranked top 10 advertisers, the report says. Three of the top 10 products were in the pharmaceutical industry.

Other advertisers included sellers of tonics, vitamins, real estate, telecom services, shampoo, skin-care products, alcohol, computers and mobile phones.

Nutritional supplements and vitamins alone accounted for 12 percent of the entire input, totaling 9.9 billion yuan (US\$1.2 billion), but this indicated a decrease of 7 percent.

Television channels account for the \$8.1 billion major share of the market, followed by newspapers at \$2.9 billion and magazines at \$200 million. TV income increased 17 percent, newspapers 13 percent and magazines 21 percent.

Internet companies also reported fast growth in advertising revenues, totaling \$63 million.

## GE Commences Shanghai Center

By Zhao Hongyi

General Electric (GE) signed an agreement last week with Shanghai Zhangjiang High-Tech Park Development Corp for a global research and development (R&D) center in the city.

GE secured a 47,000-square-meter parcel of land for the first-phase construction of the facility, scheduled to begin operations in 2003.

Another 67,000 square meters has been reserved for its second-phase construction. The Shanghai facility will be the third of the GE empire after New York and Bangalore, India.

It is also the 27th investment project in 12 years by GE in China.

While maintaining its expansion in the industrial sector, GE is “most likely to get more involved in capital sector” in China, said Steven J. Schneider, chief executive officer (CEO) of GE (China).

The GE move led Chinese officials to suggest this is a new model for foreign investment in China.

“Instead of merely manufacturing workshops, R&D and innovation should be the highlights of our park,” said Dai Haibo, president of Shanghai Zhangjiang High-Tech Park Development Corp.

## Foreign Mortgage Service Opens

By Zhao Hongyi

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a branch of the World Bank, signed an agreement with Advantage Services Holding Ltd (ASHL) to provide home mortgage, borrower credit analysis, and contract underwriting services to Chinese banks.

The third shareholder is the Finanierings-Maatschappij Voor Ontwikkelingslanden N.V. (FMO) from Holland, according to sources revealed at the signing ceremony in Beijing on February 28.

IFC and FMO’s investment represents a 24.5 percent direct ownership respectively in ACHL. ACHL owns the remaining 51 percent.

The Hong Kong-based ASHL will provide these services through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Advantage China Holdings Limited (ACHL) to the Chinese mainland. Beijing Advantage, the first joint venture company, is expected to begin operations in the first half of 2002.



Pere Pi holds aloft his creation

Photo Provided by Pere Pi

## Bicycle Trials King Launches China Strategy

By Jiang Zhong

The creator of the largest trial bike manufacturer in the world made a one-day visit to Beijing on Saturday.

BikeTrials owner and initiator of Bicycles Monty, Pere Pi contacted representatives of the Chinese Cycling Association and also visited the largest bicycle club and cycling events sponsor in Beijing: Ore Bicycle Club.

With nine Spanish championships in three different specialities: roadracing, motocross and mototrial and 25 years of knowledge at Montesa Factory, Pi established Bicycles Monty in 1983. He created the brand Bicicletas Monty SA. Pi created the first bikes for bicycle trials and was also the first to write rules to regulate the sport.

When asked the purpose of his trip, Pi said China had the largest cycling population and Chinese athletes were also successful in cycling sports events such as the track competition. However, new events such as mountain bike cycling and bicycle trials rarely saw the participation of Chinese athletes.

He said his brand Bicicletas Monty SA holds 85 per cent of the trial bike market. While there are few bicycle trials enthusiasts in China, even fewer chose Monty for competition. To improve Monty’s performance on the Chinese market, the company must first introduce the sport.

Zhang Rongqin, manager of Ore Bicycle Club, pointed to youngsters performing bicycle stunts by his shop and said that trials had reached China. Young people dyed their hair and wore loose garments, but it was not the only thing about this sport, he said.

Monty would introduce professional bike trial competition to China as soon as its China strategy was launched. The Ministry

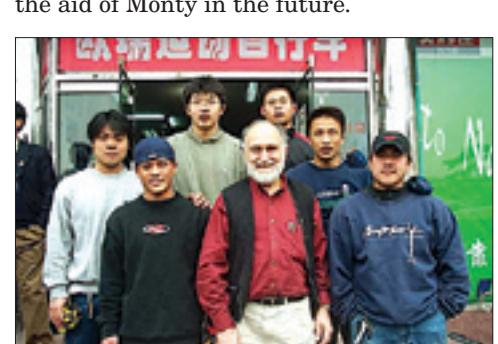
of Education had issued a circular promoting cycling sports in middle schools, which offered the Monty a good chance to enlarge business among youngsters always willing to try out new things, he said.

Pi said Monty had one assembly plant in China, set up in Shenzhen in June to export to foreign countries. He also said Monty would not produce bicycle parts in China in the near future.

Vice Secretary General of Chinese Cycling Association Jiang Guofeng said there was no cooperation plan yet. The Chinese Cycling Association suggested enhancing communication with Monty first.

He explained some 3,000 youngsters in Beijing had so far participated in bicycle trials. Among them, 150 had sufficient quality to attend international events and took training courses regularly. The association expected to send Chinese athletes to international events and also expected Monty to invite leading athletes to China.

Zhang Rongqin said that the International Cycling Union World Championships Track 2003 would be held in Shenzhen, China. China was expected to hold an international bicycle trial competition with the aid of Monty in the future.



Pere and bicycle trials enthusiasts in Beijing

## Beijing: Five-Year Plan for Pharmaceutical Base

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing wants to make the capital into a brand new pharmaceutical industrial base for the nation in the next five years.

Four government agencies revealed their blueprint for the industry and declared they were expecting an annual 32 billion yuan pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, with a 12.1 billion yuan added manufacturing value by 2005.

The Municipal Economic Commission, Municipal Development Commission, Science & Technology Commission and Drug Administration held a joint press conference on Feb. 27. More details include two company groups with annual sales volumes of 5 billion yuan each, eight 2 billion yuan annual sales volume companies, ten 500 million yuan companies, and 25 newly incubated players with an annual sales of 100 million yuan.

Biotechnology will be top priority, according to press conference

officials.

Xu Heyi, deputy director general of the Municipal Economic Commission told media the government invites overseas pharmaceutical manufacturers and researchers to take root in Beijing, either by joint or cooperative venture.

Policy and administrative support includes land lease, capital injection and better administrative services.

“We have the rapidly increasing market demand. We have a strong base of pharmaceutical industry. We have an advanced and sophisticated science and technology foundation here,” Fang Laiying, deputy director of Beijing Drug Administration told *Beijing Today* in an interview.

“The output of the industry amounts to 5.6 billion yuan last year, which is far from satisfying,” Fang said.

Bayer, Aventis, Novartis and GE Pharmaceuticals have already set up plants in Beijing, according to Fang.

## Prime Real Estate up for Grabs

By Wang Dandan

Land use rights will go up for auction starting from February 28 with the establishment of Beijing Land Trade Center.

Development and operation rights to Beijing land and property used to be conducted by negotiation. The center instead invites public bidding or auction.

For real estate developers, land use costs occupy one third of their total construction costs. The establishment of the center should slash real estate prices.

The day after the opening, four companies bid for five parcels of land near Guangqumen, about 480,000 square meters in total. Near the Central Business District (CBD), the area proved popular with bidders.

The highest bid was 3.2 billion yuan. Staff from the center said there will be a public reply to bids and the final winner will be chosen by a judge committee composed of 21 governmental staff and real estate professionals.

It is expected the center will lower the price of real estate in the city.

## Walking, Talking & Competing

Motorola monopolizes two-way radio market

By Zhao Hongyi

Patrolling this way and that, police and security guards could be seen sporting their two-way radios at temple fairs in Beijing over spring festival holidays, a timely reminder of its huge potential market.

Wireless talkers used to be a professional tool for police and military. But today, these products are entering civilian use and finding a totally new market.

The Chinese government opened the 400 MHz radio frequencies for civil use on December 6, 2000. Six days later, Motorola obtained access permission for its 3-kilometer-range walkie-talkie wireless phone and launched the product in China. With this move, Motorola declared itself the sole foreign supplier of a two-way civil use radio in the country. No one else has yet moved.

A Motorola market survey of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou last year found a potential market of 312,000 sets over the next five years. Factor in 1.22 million other pairs for 12 other Chinese cities mentioned in the report, and it reaches 1.532 million. The total market volume could reach as high as 1.5 billion yuan (at 1,000 yuan a pair). Motorola’s Walkie-Talkie retails for 1,200 yuan a pair now in the market.

The company has invested \$30 million and established a walkie-talkie factory in Shanghai and started production soon after obtaining the licence.

“I cannot give you the exact output and sales volume, due to commercial secrecy,” said Zhou Haitao, press officer of the factory in a phone interview with *Beijing Today*. “The only word I



Addicon “walkie-talkie”  
Photo provided by Beijing Synergy

can say is ‘big’.”

The Motorola success story in the pager market in China mirrors the company’s ambition and confidence for two-way radios. The company introduced the first pager to China in 1988 and established a factory in Tianjin. It once occupied 70 percent of the pager market, with each pager costing several thousand yuan.

Beijing Synergy Network Technology is building an assembly plant in Guangdong for the production of walkie-talkies, believed to be available by April.

Liu Lipeng, business development manager of Beijing Synergy, told our reporter local manufacturers are also preparing to promote their walkie-talkies in Guangdong. These companies used to produce these products in an OEM (original equipment manufacturing) model, which enriched them with experience and know-how in the production.

But Zhou at Motorola said, “We know they are still applying for a licence before any production.”

## Troubled Teens Besiege Clinic with Requests

By Sun Ming

The Green Apple Clinic has handled 48 juveniles and already tallied 300 inquiry calls since it opened on Saturday. The proportion of boys to girls they received was about equal and most came alone, according to the clinic.

The first special clinic for teenagers in China, Green Apple opened to the public to provide psychological consultation and psychotherapy to boys and girls from 10 to 23 years old.

"In our country," says clinic sponsor Chen Yiyun, a Chinese Academy of Social Sciences researcher, "many juveniles are ignorant of sex knowledge. They are too shy to speak out about their problems if they are in hot water, even to their parents."

"For them, a laidback and comfortable mental clinic like Green Apple is needed," Most teenage psychological problems



Photo by Chen Shuyi

involve sexual issues of one kind or another, according to the clinic experts.

"After all, these are boys and girls in adolescence. We should give them correct guidance," says Zhang Chungai, one of five psychologists at the clinic.

"A 14-year-old girl told me she couldn't concentrate on study and often felt restless with anxiety after she saw an erotic video by accident."

"And she couldn't help thinking about the scene of the video, even though she also frequently condemned herself. She really needed a senior — not her parents or teachers — to give her some directions. So she came here," says Zhang.

"Now the girl has entirely recovered. But I think that there must be lots of young boys and girls who have the same experience as this girl. I really hope they can also consider coming here."

## Couple of Rare Chicks Come Home

By Ivy Zhang

Two of the most endangered birds in the world flew into Beijing yesterday.

By plane from Shanghai.

The two 10-month-old male crested ibis came from a conservation center on Sado Island, Niigata Prefecture in Japan and were taken for 30-40 day observation at an animal protection center in Nan Yuan, south Beijing. Beijing Zoo will get the *Nipponia Nippon* birds in the end.

President Jiang Zemin in De-



Photo by Chen Shuyi

"I'm a living Lei Feng."

## Let's All Do That Lei Feng Thang

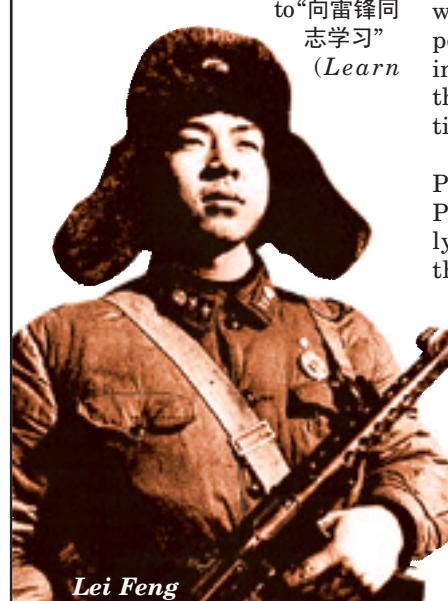
By Chen Ying

Migrant workers transferred into retro chic role models on Sunday. Commemorating Lei Feng is back and popular as a model for Chinese.

The website song "Northeasterners are all living Lei Fengs" (东北人都是活雷锋), is now one of the most popular songs in the country and was performed at the annual spring festival TV variety show.

Lei Feng was an orphan and later a People's Liberation Army soldier in the 1960s. He became a mythical superhero by performing good deeds at the low rank of squad leader. Lei died in a truck accident on August 15, 1962.

For his continuous "serving the people wholeheartedly (全心全意为人民服务), Mao Zedong published an inscription to "向雷锋同志学习" (Learn



Lei Feng

from Comrade Lei Feng) in People's Daily of March 5, 1963. Since then, every March, Chinese continue to commemorate him. *Star Daily* ran the headline "Beijingers are living Lei Fengs" on Tuesday. *Beijing Morning Post* had "Thousands of volunteers are all living Lei Fengs" on the same day. Migrant workers are also getting in on the Lei Feng action.

Sixteen laborers from rural areas performed "We're all living Lei Fengs - migrant workers experience hero," a live sculpture on Sunday in the square in front of the Chaoyang Culture Palace of Chaoyang District near Jingguang Center.

Standing quietly on the temporary stage, performers wore bronze fatigues. One acted as Lei Feng, grasping a machine gun. Others grasped tools of work and made different labor postures from daily life. During the two-hour performance, they changed their poses four times in total.

The performers from Pingquan County of Hebei Province are all now gainfully employed in redecorating the building. They performed the show volunteer for free.

More than 2 million migrants now work in Beijing. Most are distributed among the occupations local people wouldn't want to take: construction, service, textiles, sanitation and gardening.



Daniel Zehnder and Hai Yue, a "Golden Flower"

## Diplomat Movie Star Makes Beijing Home

By Ivy Zhang

Daniel Zehnder has just moved to a new apartment in Beijing Soho New Town. Resident in China for five years, he has stories to tell of the silver screen.

Zehnder, 44, works as culture and press counselor at the Swiss embassy in Beijing. From 1989-1991, Zehnder worked in Kunming, Yunnan. Kunming enjoyed sister-city status with Zurich for 20 years. Zehnder was selected and designated by Zurich to work on the spot at Kunming University teaching German to a class organized by Kunming government.

"For me, this was certainly a very important experience as I was living and working in a Chinese work unit," says Zehnder. "It was a special time. I came to Kunming with an open-minded spirit in the beginning and I was one of the few foreigners living there."

Kunming was conservative in Zehnder's eyes in comparison to Beijing or Shanghai. Locals were not used to living with foreigners and they carefully observed him. As an expat, Zehnder was sometimes invited to Yunnan TV to appear on talkshow programs, and played a role in the TV movie "Sons and Daughters of Five Golden Flowers" (五朵金花的儿女们) in 1990.

This was a follow-up to the musical "Five Golden Flowers" shot in the 1960s. The original tells of five beautiful girls nicknamed "Five Golden Flowers" who overcome difficulties to get together with their beloved ones.

The new movie depicted the life and love stories of a second generation of

"Golden Flowers." The daughter of one "Golden Flower" came back to Dali after studying in Beijing. Five young men compete for her affection, among them Zehnder who plays the role of "Yang A Peng".

"Actually, there was a singing competition. The girl must choose the best one among these five and get married," says Zehnder. "As a result, an honest and kind man wins. The three other Chinese men end up marrying other girls."

"There are altogether four marriages in the movie. The foreigner is the only one who's a good friend, but has to go back to his own country."

The day after the movie was broadcast, Zehnder cycled down to shop. He was recognized by local people. "I have seen you!" they would shout, or "Ah, Yang A Peng!"

The movie was broadcast four times in two years. Each time afterwards, Zehnder received the same reaction. After going back to Switzerland and working in parliament eight years, Zehnder came to Beijing in 2000.

"For me, after living in Switzerland for many years, I would like some changes or new things. Now, as a diplomat, I can see China from a different perspective."



## Recruiters Just Say No to China's Ivy League

By Sun Ming

The desktop notice "Total bar on Beijing and Tsinghua university graduates" won attention at a job fair in the Beijing International Exhibition Hall this weekend.

"We employed 12 graduates from these two universities before," said Wu Xinmei, general manager of Beijing Twooop Technology. "All of them were unsatisfying."

"They were too impulsive to keep their minds on their work and constantly had the idea of job-hopping. Most graduates from Beijing and Tsinghua universities have the same problems," said Sun Yingkui, deputy general manager of the representative office of America Twooop International.

"Actually, not only our Twooop, many other companies also think so. You can ask them."

The medium-size firm offered 22 vacancies including general manager assistant, business managers, engineers, interpreters and secretaries.

"Certainly, we admit many graduates from the 'Ivy League' are top-ranking talent in their majors, but what we really need is an earnest and steady person," said Sun Yingkui.

"As far as I know, in South Korea, many companies prefer second-draw to top-ranking talent. The former are usually steadier and have greater potential. And they won't ask for a very high salary."

Beijing University graduate Sun Te is deputy general manager of the company. Asked to comment on the issue, Sun refused to discuss the matter.

"I'm not in Beijing right now," said Sun. "I'm very busy," he said upon being pressed further. Asked if the reporter could call back later when he was not busy, Sun said, "Look, I wasn't in Beijing. So I don't know anything about these events."

Beijing and Tsinghua graduates seemed unfazed. "Most of my classmates are earnest, unlike what the company said. The individuals they employed can't represent our entire body of students," said Wang Chen, a Tsinghua graduate.

"We have to hop jobs. It's very normal for a person to seek a better job. Twooop should examine its own errors which lead to its loss of talent," said Chen Xiaodong, a Beijing University graduate.

"I believe clever people can see through the motives of this company easily. They just want to advertise," said Chen Jihe, an employee of the Employment Consultancy Center at Tsinghua University.

*Beijing Today* visited another 10 companies and eight said they shared the same impression of "Chinese Ivy League" graduates.

It's the first time in Beijing that a company erected such a notice at recruitment sessions, said Zhang Yuquan, the director of the Ren Cai (Talented Persons) Service Center in Beijing.

"I think a company has its own right to decide what kind of persons it wants, like people have the right to choose what companies they choose. But this action by Twooop was maybe a little over-intense, even though it didn't violate current regulations."

## Who Can Help Boy, 4?

By Sun Ming

Chen Zhuo, 4, suffers from a potentially fatal fungal infection of the heart. His father has made an 11th-hour appeal for donations to pay for Zhuo's injections and daily medicine. Fuwai Hospital where Chen stays says the source of his infection is probably an artificial blood vessel inserted in his body.

Chen, who has congenital heart disease, had an operation at the Second Xiangya Hospital in Changsha, Hunan Province in October last year.

An artificial blood vessel made from the wrapping of a cow's heart was implanted to make up the difference in his shorter pulmonary artery.

From then, however, Chen has suffered a high fever. Chen on December 27 last year, had to be transferred to Beijing Fuwai Hospital, a cardiovascular hospital.

Fungi were found to be growing in Chen's pulmonary artery, with respiration and blood circulation functions seriously impaired.

The boy's father Chen Shimin says Second Xiangya Hospital has not given a reasonable explanation as to why they selected materials from a cow's heart.

"They just say that they couldn't find a suitable blood vessel directly from humans." Now Chen Zhuo's blood is also infected with fungi, even though Beijing Fuwai Hospital has removed the artificial blood vessel and installed a human one. Chen suffers shocks resulting from the toxins released by the fungi.

"What my poor son needs most is effective injections of Itraconazole (伊曲康唑). But it's too expensive. Every day we have to pay more than 1,000 yuan. We have no more money left," says Chen Shimin, a laid-off worker.

Medical costs have reached 180,000 yuan so far and his family owes 130,000 yuan.

Doctors say it's really not easy for Zhuo, who has lived longer than three months since he suffered a serious fungal infection. "He still has the hope of surviving if he can gain enough Itraconazole (伊曲康唑)."

To help Zhuo, call: 1368-1400651 or 6590-2513  
Or e-mail: rmw-sos@peoplemail.com.cn

## Foreign Affairs



Photo by Zhuang Jian

## Let Love Ring Out

By Shi Xinyu

Zhou Chenghan, 6, is about to receive the most precious gift of his whole life the ability to hear again.

Through the Social Club of the Australian Embassy, he was handed a 180,000 yuan cochlear bionic ear implant, the high-tech device that allows profoundly deaf children to learn to hear and speak as any other child.

Surgeons will operate to install the device in the next few days or longer, depending on tests.

"It will be the start of a new life full of music, sound and communication for Zhou Chenghan," said Australia Ambassador David Irvine as he handed the check to Chenghan and his mother Bai Tao at the presentation ceremony held on March 1.

Bai cried.

Her son had become deaf as a result of being given the wrong medicine while in hospital for a minor illness at the age of 14 months. Her husband then abandoned the family. For the following more than four years, she never gave up on her efforts to restore her son's hearing. But when she learnt the only effective treatment cost nearly 200,000 yuan, she had no choice but to quit. The cost was beyond her and her family's financial capacity.

Chenghan's plight was learnt by millions of people through a documentary produced by News Investigation, a CCTV program late last year. The Australian Embassy Social Club, which works on charitable projects, was also touched. The members there resolved to donate to Chenghan as its principal charity project to mark the coming 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Australia.

Chenghan is receiving a series of physical examinations at Peking Union Medical College Hospital and the surgery is expected to be performed soon after that. It is hoped that, with successful post-operative therapy, Chenghan's hearing will be switched on again in a few days or more.

# Student, 20, Sues Mom

## Then drops suit, blames dad for school fee tussle

By Deng Xingjun/He Jia/Chen Ying

When his dad handed him a piece of paper to sign for college financial aid at the end of last year, he says, little did Tao\* realize it was a binding legal document that targeted Mom. Tao withdrew the suit.

The Matrimony Law states parents have no legal obligation to support their children through college. Tao, 20, a Capital University of Medical Science student, withdrew his case at Xuanwu District People's Court on January 28.

The father had requested Tao's mother to pay 3,000 yuan of Tao's total 7,200 first year tuition that he had borrowed from an aunt. He also demanded she pay her son 400 yuan monthly living expenses until graduation.

Tao knows his parents don't get on well: they have gone to court four times trying to divorce but failed because of financial arguments.

Tao's mother is a bus conductor. His father hasn't had a job for "a long time", says Tao. The couple separated at the beginning of last year and Tao's mother moved out in October, sleeping at friends' and relatives' homes.

Despite the high-publicity fracas, Tao and his mother do not appear to harbor any ill feeling toward each other. They seem only hurt by the case. For a child to sue his parents seems almost unimaginable by the traditional Chinese thinking. When does parental duty end and a teenager's adult responsibility

begin?

Opinions follow:

### Tao, freshman, Capital University of Medical Sciences

I have known there was no chance of my mediating between my parents since I was in grade three at middle school (16/17 years old). But I couldn't interfere as they kept criticizing each other in front of me. I realized they must divorce as quickly as possible.

I never hated my mother. I have no complaints about her. It's my mistake suing her when her ability is limited and she even has several sicknesses.

I know my mother well. She is decent, diligent and tough. But now she is under huge pressure. I can understand it if she doesn't give me money even if she owes it.

### "Does this show our society growing too callous?"

#### Tao's mother

Today, solving problems through legal means has become more and more prevalent in our society. It's a useful tool in solving disagreements within the family.

From my experience, there are many precedents around us of relatives solving their conflicts through legal means. My family's disagreement admittedly seems more prominent than others.

My son is an adult. In this case, he should sue to protect his legal rights. So should I. The question is which side the law supports.

I never imagined I would suffer such hurt in my midlife, especially the pressure from my relatives. Now I own nothing at all. I haven't any choice but to battle on. But I never hate my son whatever his reasons for suing me. I have always tried to avoid hurting him in the

conflict between my husband and me. But I have failed. There is no problem between my son and me. It's up to him whether he supports me when I'm older.

#### Tong Lihua, legal analyst

The opinion that it is unfilial for a man to sue his mother should be abandoned. People can adopt lawsuits if a responsibility and obligation exist. It's the best way of protecting their legal rights. We should encourage it.

#### Zhao Zhongxin, professor, Beijing Normal University

It's a good thing if teenagers protect their legal rights. In China, parents usually provide all tuition supporting their kids in completing their study career. Although the law says children older than 18 should be independent, they can't be truly economically independent without a job.

But everything has two sides. In western countries, teenagers usually take care of themselves after 18. This advantage can also be a disadvantage. Kids don't listen to their parents and parents don't provide tuition. It's easier for children to commit a crime outside parental supervision.

#### Requested anonymity

The case is a conflict between rights and responsibilities. But the relationship between the defendant and the plaintiff is that of mother and son. The plaintiff also isn't a minor. It creates a confrontation that hurts not only mother and son, but also many others.

The parent-child relationship collapses because of collision within the family. Does this show our society growing too callous? We shouldn't worry about who is right and who is wrong in this case. We should instead pay more attention to the negative side-effects. This lawsuit should not be copied.

\* Names changed at the request of anonymity

### SOUND BITES

"Sufficient evidence existed to prosecute and...such evidence would probably be sufficient to obtain and sustain a conviction."

— Robert Ray, the independent prosecutor who succeeded Kenneth Starr, said there was enough evidence to charge Bill Clinton over Whitewater

"The most pressing task is to ensure that subsistence allowances for laid-off workers from state-owned enterprises and basic pensions for retirees are paid on time and in full. We will not allow new arrears to occur anywhere. Officials use public funds for wining and dining, extravagant entertainment and private travel abroad. This misconduct invariably consumes large sums of money, so we must resolutely stop this tendency."

— China's Premier Zhu Rongji in a speech to the National People's Congress

"We can only tackle climate change effectively through a multilateral process."

— Romano Prodi, President of the European Commission, concerning the EU commitment to the Kyoto treaty on global warming

By Chen Ying

Tao had to stay in a student dormitory for his winter holidays

Photo by Jing Ming

北京青年报  
BEIJING TODAY  
今日北京

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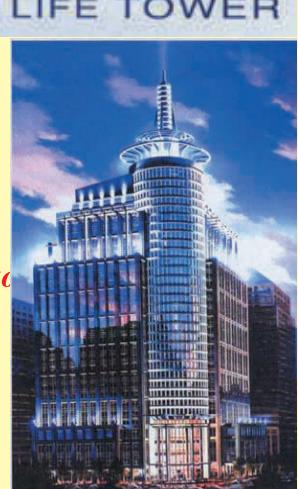
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# Sex & Marriage: How Are Attitudes Changing?

By Su Wei

**W**hat kind of role does sex play in Chinese people's marriages? How common is it for couples to live together out of wedlock? What are people's attitudes towards the single or divorced people?

Recently, *Horizonkey.com* has conducted a survey among 2,700 people in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Dalian, Chengdu and Xi'an to find out how their ideas have changed with the variety of modern life.

## Highlighted Sexual Life for Marriage

More than 80% of the surveyed disagree with the statements, "It is possible for people to be uninterested in sex, for sex is only for procreation," and "It is wrong to consider sex as a pleasure".

Furthermore, over 95% of those surveyed who are university educated and earn high salaries in Beijing, Guangzhou and Chengdu strongly disagreed.

However, almost 30% of the surveyed aged over 50 in Xi'an agreed with the statements.

The results suggest that most people have abandoned the once prevalent ideas towards sex, that sex is the root of evil and its only purpose is for procreation.

People now tend to agree that sex is a key component of a complete life. Especially for couples, harmonious sex is an important way to communicate.

A middle-aged man once called a women's hotline. He had become impotent and was worried his wife might want to divorce him. "My wife does not say anything or complain, but she has more quarrels with me, even over little things. She used to be very tender."

The different attitudes towards sex suggests that people with a high level of education living in more economically developed areas have more opportunities to learn about sexual issues from the outside world and are more willing to discuss such issues with others. So they often have a better understanding of sex in the marriage.

In contrast, aged people, who have usually received a more traditional education or have no education at all, are more influenced by feudal ideas about sex and are unwilling to talk about sex, especially in public.

## Living together out of Wedlock Increasing

The survey reveals that 80% of people believe that unmarried people living together will become more common, especially those with above senior high school education in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Chengdu.

One reason is that more people, especially young people in the more developed cities are more open-minded about sex.

They believe not having sex until after marriage is only one way of showing loyalty and love to their partners.

Another reason is that women's economic status has been improved and they are less dependant on men. Now, almost all the women are capable of making a life themselves.

Meanwhile, many people, especially those in modern cities, have become more indifferent and less curious about other people's lives.

Even people around the cohabitants may not know whether they are married or not. With less gossip, social pressures on those cohabiting are not as heavy as before.

Li Yinhe, a sociologist from the Marriage and Family Research Department of the Chinese Academy of Social Sci-



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ences points out that living together is a good way for people to learn more about each other and may also avoid costly divorce proceedings married couples may incur when they separate.

29-year-old Xiaomei has lived with her boyfriend for more than six years. She says they love each other but are unwilling to get married.

"We both decided to live together.

career, more people are taking all kinds of training courses outside working hours, leaving little time for private life.

They are afraid they may miss opportunities if they have to accompany their boyfriends or girlfriends.

"Can my girlfriend accept it if I have to take frequent business trips or get on with people of the opposite sex?" "Could

Chinese people are becoming more practical towards marriage and more concerned with the mutual harmonies between sex and interest.

Non-traditional families and sexual relationships are more readily accepted. More people are seeking social relationships with people of the opposite sex, and they are more independent in love.

But family ties appear to have become weaker due to the changing social customs and many have sensed marriages are more easily broken.

Certainly we have quarrels and we once even decided to separate. But the longer we stay together, the more we understand each other."

Li says people sharing similar opinions with Xiaomei are often less optimistic, "They may have been aware that their relationship may not last long from the very beginning."

## More Choosing to Remain Single

Almost 80% of the surveyed believe that more people will choose to remain single. Nearly 90% of well-educated women in Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu strongly agree.

Strong competition and heavy pressures may result in this increasing trend. In order to achieve a successful

my husband tolerate the fact that I can not take care of the family as he requires?"

However, when those people have a comfortable material life in the late thirties, they complain that they could not find their ideal partners.

For men, they may worry that women will love them for their money. For women, they are not willing to marry men with lower income and social status, and find men with similar economic status prefer younger women.

Therefore, these people gradually lose interest in getting married and have little hope of finding their ideal partners.

Another reason is that some people may have experienced or seen someone

else hurt by the unsuccessful love or marriage. Afraid of having a similar unpleasant experience, they remain unmarried.

Wu, a computer systems engineer blames his job on his unstable life. "The information updates almost everyday. I have to keep studying. Otherwise I will be overtaken by those younger people."

But he also admits his girlfriend leaving him three years ago still hurts him now.

Although working is almost his whole life, he still wants to have a wife to share his loneliness and take care of his life. "But I just have no time to find her. I can not have a family at the cost of losing my job!"

## DINK Families More Attractive

The survey also reveals that over 70% of the surveyed believe the number of DINK (Dual Income No Kids) families will increase, especially those with high education background.

People consider this family model represents a determination to seek more freedom and break away from the tradition. Especially women see DINK families as an improvement in their traditional roles in the family.

There are other reasons for people deciding not to have children, such as lacking a stable family life and concentrating on personal career.

Wu, a sales director in a trade company, says neither he nor his wife are willing to have a child, as it would interfere with their careers. "If we have a child, we must spend more time and energy on it!"

Besides, some people may think the two persons' world is more enjoyable. They can dispose of their spare time as they choose. "A busy life accompanied by the children's cries is not the life we pursue!"

## Divorce Much Easier

Nearly 80% of the surveyed say social pressure against divorcees will decrease. Meanwhile, over 84% with a high education background in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou agree, 13% more than people with less than senior middle school education in Dalian and Xi'an.

Today more people have experienced divorce or have friends or relatives who have. Hence people are more concerned and more sympathetic towards others who divorce.

For those seeking to divorce, they are no longer required to maintain the almost non-existent marriage.

And there are fewer quarrels and fights between those involved in getting divorced.

Now more and more divorced couples are willing to help each other in difficulties after the breakup and remain friends.

Especially for those with higher education background, they are more likely to treat divorce as a natural thing than those in the inland areas.

They may consider getting divorced is the same as getting married, a decision involving only the two concerned.

On the other side they may consider it pointless to persist in maintaining a broken-down marriage.

Meanwhile, the revised Marriage Law has confirmed people's right to marry, divorce or remain unmarried. The law has also stipulated that after two years separation, one year less than the old law, couples may divorce.

There have also been some changes to the civil laws, resolving the division of property after divorce.

## Weekly Survey

### More Varieties of Personal Money Management

Saving money in bank appears not to be the only way for money management and more people have begun thinking about consumption before earning and investment with risks.

A survey conducted by China Mainland Marketing (CMM) has revealed that 13% of people, especially young managers aged between 25 and 35 prefer planning their expenses and spending unearned money as well as investing with high risks.

17% of the surveyed people, especially those aged between 30 and 40 civil servants, technicians and small-scale entrepreneurs, though they prefer investing with high risks, do not like to spend money which they have not earned.

But 3% of people, mainly company staff aged 20 to 30 seldom plan their expenses, but they have shown their tendency to go for high-risk investments.

The largest group of the surveyed people are those aged over 40. These people are mainly office staff, retired people and housewives.

They always carefully calculate how much to spend but never try to spend until they really earn, notwithstanding investing with risks.

The variety of money management may be a result of the reform of the economic system.

With the planned economic system transferring to market economic system and the improved living standards, people have shown they are more willing to change their ideas.

### Education Becomes Key Family Expense

The total child education expense last year for all the families in China was nearly 60 billion yuan and the expense for adult education of all families was almost 10 billion yuan.

Meanwhile, expenses for children studying overseas was also 4.7 billion yuan.

CMM has found over 56% of families spent money on their children's education, at about 5,900 yuan per household. Shanghai, Beijing, Tianjin and Chongqing spent 8.6 billion, 8.4 billion, 4.4 billion and 4 billion on children's education respectively, ranking higher than all provinces in China.

Furthermore, expenses for choosing a key school took about 16% of the total children's education expenses, at an average of 6,600 yuan.

Education is regarded as important to the population flow as well as obtaining a certain kind of social status.

Meanwhile, with the promotion of education as an industry, parents become more willing to spend more money hoping their children will make achievements when they grow up.

The survey also reveals that almost all of the 14% of families spent an average of 4,000 yuan on adult education last year.

The reason is that more adults have realized the importance of updating their knowledge in the face of a competitive world. Education has no longer been confined to children only.

Furthermore, among the 0.7% of families in China with overseas education expenses for children, each household spent about 64,000 yuan compared with nearly 60,000 yuan per household for the 1.4% with adult education expenses.



Zhang Yu, 12 years old, can still only breath with the aid of a respiratory.

Photo by Zhang Guojun

## Food Poisoning Kills One, Hospitalizes Six in Xinjiang

By Chen Chunyan/Ivy Zhang

Seven people from two related families in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region contracted food poisoning after eating homemade preserved bean curd. One ten-year-old boy is dead and the six others are receiving treatment and recovering.

After ten days on a nasal feeding device, Ge Guifang, the woman who made the bean curd and mother of the dead boy is now able to eat food. Her daughter Zhang Yu, who has been breathing with the help of a respiratory device, can now move her arms. Ge Guifang's husband

in San Francisco, the serum was located at a medical institute in San Francisco.

On the evening of March 1, the life-saving medicine, manufactured by a German company in the US and worth US\$32,000, arrived via airfreight at the hospital.

### **She doesn't know her son is dead.**

Ge Guirong, the elder sister, told reporters the family had spent 20,000 yuan so far on medical treatment. "Without the help of Delong Corporation, which purchased the medicine from abroad, we would not be able to pay

**Botulism is a food poisoning caused by a toxin produced by the bacteria, Clostridium botulinum. The bacteria and its spores, prevalent in soil and water worldwide are themselves harmless, however when they grow, they create a highly toxic poison that can lead to extreme illness and even death. The spores can easily grow in improperly stored home-cooked or commercial foods.**

Zhang Fusheng, sister Ge Guirong and the sister's two sons, Chen Wei and Chen Liang, are all out of danger and expected to be released from hospital next week.

### **Searching for blood serum**

Ge Guirong and Ge Guifang are sisters, originally from Anhui Province. On February 19, all seven members of the two families ate some preserved bean curd made by younger sister Ge Guifang.

When they first started to feel ill, no one took it too seriously; they assumed they had just caught a cold. However when the symptoms became serious, they went to the local hospital where doctors mistakenly diagnosed them as being poisoned by gas from a coal-burning stove.

On February 23, all seven were transferred to No. 1 Hospital of the Xinjiang Medical University and diagnosed with botulism, a potentially fatal form of food poisoning.

Because the hospital lacked the serum needed to treat botulism, Ge Guifang's son, the youngest among the four sick children, died the following day. The remaining six remained dangerously ill, depending on respiratory devices to keep breathing.

An emergency call for the serum was sent out worldwide, and with the help of the Chinese media, Xinjiang Delong Corporation and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China

the medical bill."

Ge Guifang's situation remained serious, even after being treated with the serum. "My sister doesn't yet know her son is dead. We don't dare to inform her of the news," Ge Guirong said.

Ge Guifang's family came to Xinjiang four years ago. She and her husband earned a living by doing various odd jobs. They made about 4,000 yuan in the first year, 3,000 yuan in the second year, but almost nothing last year. The family planned to return to their hometown this coming autumn.

Ge Guirong says she has heard of people getting food poisoning in Xinjiang by eating preserved bean curd. However, Ge Guifang's family often ate the stuff when they were in the hometown with no ill effects. So she made some on this occasion. When Ge Guirong visited her sister's home, she tried it and took some back for her kids.

### **Where does botulism come from?**

Preserved bean curd is commonly eaten by people in both inland and coastal areas in China, with no ill effect. Why did this incident occur in Xinjiang?

Dr. Wang Deren from the hospital that treated the seven says that botulism is not limited to Xinjiang.

Any type of bacillus can cause food poisoning. People's responses vary based on the severity of the particular case. The obvious symptoms are difficulty in breathing, vomiting and weakness.

# Expat C Clubs Flourishing



Steve Burrus (left) and Jim Rogers chat at Happy Hour.

By Ivy Zhang

As Beijing's expatriate population swells, expat clubs are too mushrooming. These clubs organize a wide range of events at various locations on weekends or weekdays to meet the needs of international community in Beijing.

Wednesday night, more than 400 people crowded into Schiller's 3 bar and restaurant to participate in the Young Professional Happy Hour (YPHH) party. About 700 cans of Tsingtao beer, 120 Corona and 120 Heineken were consumed that night, according to Schiller's.

Friday night, Cherry Lane Movies showed *The guasha treatment* with English subtitles to an audience of 170 people at the 21st Century Theatre. Emergency landing is screening tonight and *Big shot's funeral* is coming later this month.

Saturday afternoon, 35 people visited the mosque at Niujie, Xuanwu district, in an activity organized by Chinese Culture Club (CCC), and nearly 20 gathered at an antique store at Wangfujing Street to learn calligraphy and painting the following day.

Sunday afternoon, the Writer's Club met as usual at the Courtyard Restaurant near the east gate of the Forbidden City to discuss film scripts and short stories written by members.

### **They are the army, we are the special forces**

It is difficult to say how many expat clubs there are in Beijing now. But one thing is for sure, the social clubs serving the international community are growing regardless of their size, subject, form and activities.

YPHH is probably the largest of these clubs. The main activity is the Happy Hour held at different bars on the last Wednesday of each month.

Dutchman Piet Bos, is the current organizer of YPHH. The 32-year-old told Beijing Today that YPHH boasts around 2,000 members and that number is growing every month by 100-150 people. The members are all between 20 to 40 years old, mostly white collar, living and working in Beijing. About 75 percent are foreigners.

"There were only 400 people on the mailing list and maybe 100 people coming to the Happy Hour when I took over," says Piet who picked up YPHH in early 2001, "it was almost dying then."

Piet says he didn't want to change the nature of Happy Hour, just get more people. "The old style of Happy Hour was cold. People basically collected business cards, as many as possible, whereas now that's still the case but it's in a more relaxing environment."

"Now people can come in shorts or in suits.

*The Happy Hour provides an opportunity for networking of Beijing's expat community.*



nan, a Chinese language student says, "It is not just a place that you can get your writing criticized. It also motivates you to write."

People who go to Cherry Lane Movies or CCC are more interested in Chinese culture and the life of Chinese people.

A Canadian woman once told me that what she wants to explore is the everyday life of Chinese. How they live and what they think," says Feng Cheng, founder of CCC.

### **There's a vacuum for expat clubs**

Non-profit expat clubs share many features in common. They are social, membership-free, and their members share common interests.

Nearly all club organizers who take the club as their part time job express their unwillingness to partner with other clubs. They want to maintain and develop their club's unique features.

"I think there is a natural and good growth of expatriate community," Jonathan says, "The club naturally happens when you have so many expatriates in a place like Beijing that is growing and expanding so vibrantly in both its economic and cultural spheres. You wouldn't have had that many people 5 or 7 years ago."

"There's a vacuum for this kind of club," says Piet. He thinks expats in Beijing are still looking for diversions, "But people need to take the initiative to do it. To set things up, it's very easy. To continue it, you need dedication and enthusiasm."

### **Hold a Happy Hour in the Forbidden City**

Though enjoying a growing market, individual clubs encounter various barriers and problems. Finding a location to hold at least 500 people every month is the most difficult thing for YPHH; Financial constraints are the chief concern for the Chinese Culture Club; and BEV-NET faces a manpower problem.

Despite such difficulties, club organizers are keen to expand. "This year we would like to expand to other cities in China and eventually Southeast Asia. Another dream is to hold a YPHH Happy Hour in the Forbidden City," says Piet.

"I would not say that there are any major difficulties although funding is always tough," says Catherine Finch, president of the Beijing Devils rugby team. "What we would like to do however is to introduce the game of rugby to more Chinese. All members of the Beijing Devils know that rugby is far more than a game, we would like the Chinese people to also have a chance to experience some of the benefits of the game that we, as foreigners, have grown up with."



YPHH in full swing at Schiller's 3.

Photos by Qu Liyan

Having experienced the spring and winter of the Internet industry, confident and ambitious, Yang Yuyu has brought her own cyberspace dream to life.



## Designing Dreams In Cyberspace

By Shi Xinyu

When I first met Yang Yuyu in her studio, she was taking a phone call from a potential customer. "... Really! That's great!" A big smile bloomed on her face, "Okay, 10am tomorrow morning ...what? ... Okay ... I see. Thank you very much." Switching off her mobile phone, she could not help laughing: "They suggested I take someone with me who looks like a real adult."

With straight long hair, a casual sweater, blue jeans and a baby face with no make-up, this 27-year-old looks more like a high school student than the head of a company. Yang established a studio for website, advertising banner

and flash design with her husband in April 2001, a time when most global Internet industries faced an uncertain future. Within one year however, the small studio has built up an impressive client list, featuring names like Motorola, Yahoo, NEC, and All Nippon Airways.

### Right decision at what seemed the wrong time

Before Yang Yuyu began her own business, she and her husband Chen Yaowei worked for a website dealing with travel-related E-business. Chen was CIO while Yang was manager of marketing and website content.

Just like thousands of other small websites invested by venture capital at that time, this company was another over-hyped and over-valued business launched in the spring of 2000. By early 2001, it had failed to turn a profit and faced being abandoned by its investors. "It seemed all of a sudden, the future of the whole Internet industry had turned bleak," recalls Yang. "Many of my friends working in this field lost their jobs and a kind of panic quickly spread among us."

At a time when many people were turning away from the Internet industry, Yang and Chen also quit their jobs. However unlike many who sought employment in a less volatile industry, they decided to launch their own digital design studio with the specific aim of providing services for other websites. "We realized where the real demand for Internet service lay," says Yang, explaining what lay behind their decision, which was deemed highly risky by many at the time. "Actually after the bubble burst in 2001, the Internet continued to become a more common and popular part of Chinese people's daily lives, and many companies have learned the power of the Internet and accept it as an important channel for communication and advertising. So they need professional design and maintenance for their websites." Thus, with around 100 thousand yuan in family savings, the young couple established Exdid, launching their independent career.

The first several months were the hardest. All Yang's memories of that time are of making phone calls. Due to limited capital, it was the only and most direct way of

finding potential customers. "My voice used to tremble when I called long lost friends or strangers," she says of those days, "I was still a little shy". The first phone call she made was to a friend working at an advertising company. Yang hoped the friend could introduce some potential customers. After the formalities of "hello" and "how have you been" had been dispensed with, she did not know how to turn the conversation to business, so she talked about the weather. Still unable to broach the subject, she asked whether her friend was free that afternoon and could she visit him. The friend agreed, and Yang went to his office. One cup of tea followed another, and two hours later Yang left with her business still a closely guarded secret.

After a night of psyching herself up, Yang called the friend again the following day. This time she managed to stammer out her intentions. After hearing her out, her friend could not help laughing and asked her if she realized just how strangely she had acted the day before. Relating the incident, Yang herself also burst into laughter.

### Once there was an Internet illiterate ...

Yang Yuyu clearly remembers that the first time she surfed the Internet was in 1998, and the first website she visited was Sohu.com. "One of my best friends was a news editor there. She asked me to visit the fruit of her work," Yang says with smile. "And maybe she wanted to show off her 'high-tech' job before such an Internet illiterate as me. And to tell the truth, I never dreamed then that I could establish my own career in this field."

At that time, her dream was to be a sociologist and to engage in research work. After graduating as a Japanese language and literature major in 1997, Yang spent 17 months preparing for TOEFL and GRE tests and applied for some graduate sociological programs in the United States. While waiting for replies, she took her first job as a purchasing assistant in a Japanese company in January 1999. Her acceptance with an offer of a full scholarship and tuition waiver arrived in June. Everything seemed to be running smoothly and Yang felt she was close to realizing her dream. However her application for

a visa was rejected, twice.

"I was quite down in the days that followed," said Yang, frowning at the unhappy memory. "I felt wronged and even discriminated against. And my colleagues all knew I had been refused and frequently asked me why. Their careless questions actually hurt even more. That summer I resigned."

### Experience of the heat of Internet

The summer of 1999 was a hot time for the Internet. New websites appeared one after another, and recruitment advertisements filled all kinds of media. At the suggestion of her friend at Sohu.com, Yang sent her resume to Chinaren.com, a website established with venture capital by some young people who had returned from the United States. The position she applied for was that of news editor. "I had no idea what that position entailed, but my friend told me all I needed to do was to sort out different kinds of news and put them into the right category."

In September 1999, Yang started off her career in the Internet industry. Most of her colleagues were in their twenties, like her, and were active and creative. Work was always busy, and it was common to still be at her desk until one or two in the morning, seven days a week for months on end. No one complained, she and her colleagues felt as though they were driven by some secret communal spirit.

"Sometimes when we were not so busy, some of us would talk about how and when our own website might make a profit. But we could never figure out a satisfactory answer. It seemed that the rule of the number of hits had displaced all the conventional rules of economics and the only possible future was a bright and promising one." Reminiscing about those optimistic days, Yang smiles bitterly.

Yang excelled at her work and was promoted to group leader after one month. Meanwhile the website's offices moved to an up-mar-



Yang collects many movies, but has little time to watch them

ket, high-rent office building on Chang'an Avenue and rapidly expanded. In the first few months, Yang knew all her colleague's names, but as more and more new faces appeared, Yang could only tell if someone was a colleague or not by their ID tag. "That was a really hectic time. Nearly everyone of us had the experience of receiving phone calls from head hunting companies to tell us that some new website had been established and needed experienced persons and were offering more than double our current incomes as well as shares in the company." The direct result of this competition among websites was the raising of staff's income. When Yang resigned from Chinaren.com eight months later, her salary had almost tripled. "Really crazy," Yang sighed again.

Having experienced the highs and lows of the Internet industry, Yang feels her studio is developing in a healthy way. Working together with her husband, she says she has never felt so confident and ambitious before. "We have begun to make a profit," she declared proudly, "And now we have the goal of becoming the best digital design studio in China."

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Yang and her husband at work in their studio  
Photos by Zhuang Jian





# The Power of History

## Artist Sees the Genealogy

By Xiao Xia and Zhu Lin

Artists Shao Yinong and Mu Chen have set out to express the extraordinary power of history in a photographic exhibition currently running at the Court-yard Gallery. The work, named Family Register, is a monumental 38-meter-long black and white photomontage featuring full length portraits of 103 of Shao's relatives, mounted on a traditional Chinese painting hand-scrub.

Tracing his genealogy held no interest for Shao until his wife Mu Chen gave birth to a son in 1999. In selecting a name for the boy, the family register was inevitably consulted and Shao's

mother began recounting the stories of some of his 100 relatives. Detailing their various fates over the years, she told stories that seemed to include every element of 20th century Chinese society.

In Shao's mind, the photograph of 103 relatives reflects the situation of the whole nation. There are rural and city dwellers; employed and unemployed; workers, soldiers, artists, intellectuals, nightclub hostesses, businessmen, academics, landlords, and even revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries. "The genealogy is redolent in the heavy continuity of history. In front of this work,

you may feel the history and family. We deeply hope to express the continuity and dissemination of Chinese culture," says Shao.

"We utilized a method we felt was sympathetic to the psychological

rhythm of Chinese people, and would not be seen as confronting," says Shao. "Fellow artists might shoot their naked parents, while we could not do that. Chinese culture is deeply rooted in my heart. Therefore we chose a more reserved way."

All the subjects wear a Sun Yat-Sen, or Mao suit over their regular clothing. The deliberately topsy-turvy style dress is one of revolution on top and western style fashion below. Each individual or family group are shot in their own home, standing in the same stiff pose against the same plain backdrop, with the same expressionless visage and flat lighting.

A simple household potted plant placed at their feet is sole sign of individuality or decorative preference.

In Shao and Mu's work, the most important issue is the "individual". Individuals from different backgrounds are dressed the same and stare at the viewer with the same lack of expression. What the montage reveals is the unity of thinking Chinese retain, according to Shao. "Every generation has different problems, while nobody can break free from such bondage," he says.

Part of *Family Register*, 3rd from L is the Shao's family

By Xiao Xia

**C**hina has long desired to hold the Summit of Asian Comics," says Pang Bangben, deputy secretary general of the China Comics Institute, "but still it's not the time." Meanwhile preparations are well advanced for the 2002 Summit of Asian comics in Japan.

The gathering of the Asian and international comic circles has already been successfully held in South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong (China) and also Chinese Taipei. However the Chinese comics' circle, the initiator of the summit, cannot yet take up the responsibility to hold one, for the modern art is still on the fringe in China. Comics are such a small, even humble industry, that few people have realized their value as a popular art form in China.

### An art form that grew out of Industrialization

Comics are different from the more political variety seen in *News Week* or the *New Yorker*. They are similar in style to what are known as manga in Japan and South Korea. "By definition, we call them 'story comics'."

The last 100 years have been the century of pop art compared with the classics of the 19th century according to Pang. The booming of comics "is the inevitable result of industrialization and post-modern trends, together with movies and pop music," he says.

No one can clearly provide the economic statistics on the comic industry in eastern Asia, especially in Japan and Hong Kong. We only know they are "beyond huge." In Hong Kong, a top comic il-

lustrator can earn more than movie star Jackie Chan.

In Japan, the comic industry employs more than 10,000 people and accounts for up to two thirds of all the publications in the country. The top selling comic magazine has a print run of 6 million per issue, and has spawned a CD, movie and even a doll. It is industrialization that allows for the mass production of this art, which in that country is virtually a license to print money.

However in China, there are only five or six publishing houses that produce comics and the most popular of these can only sell 40 to 50 thousand copies. It is still far from being a real industry, with the capacity of hosting an international summit.

### Illustrators in China

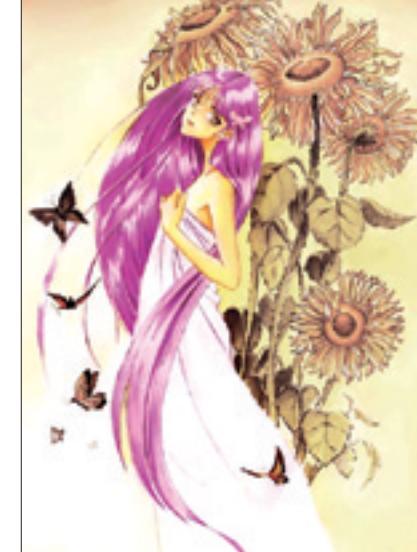
The first group of modern Chinese comic illustrators appeared in 1993. Their works were published in a number of underground publications. Most showed a strong Japanese influence, featuring lots of leggy girls with wide, blinking eyes.

Mainstream comic publications did not start to emerge until 1995, and since then, different drawing styles have appeared in different cities. In Beijing, the comic scene is dominated by a group of



The Japanese comic piles at book-store  
Photo By Zhuang Jian

### Comics Still on the Fringe of Industrialization in China



Pictures by Lian Bingru / Tai Dou

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## Tan's Chinese Elements Fail to Sparkle At Home

By Xiao Xia/Zhu Lin

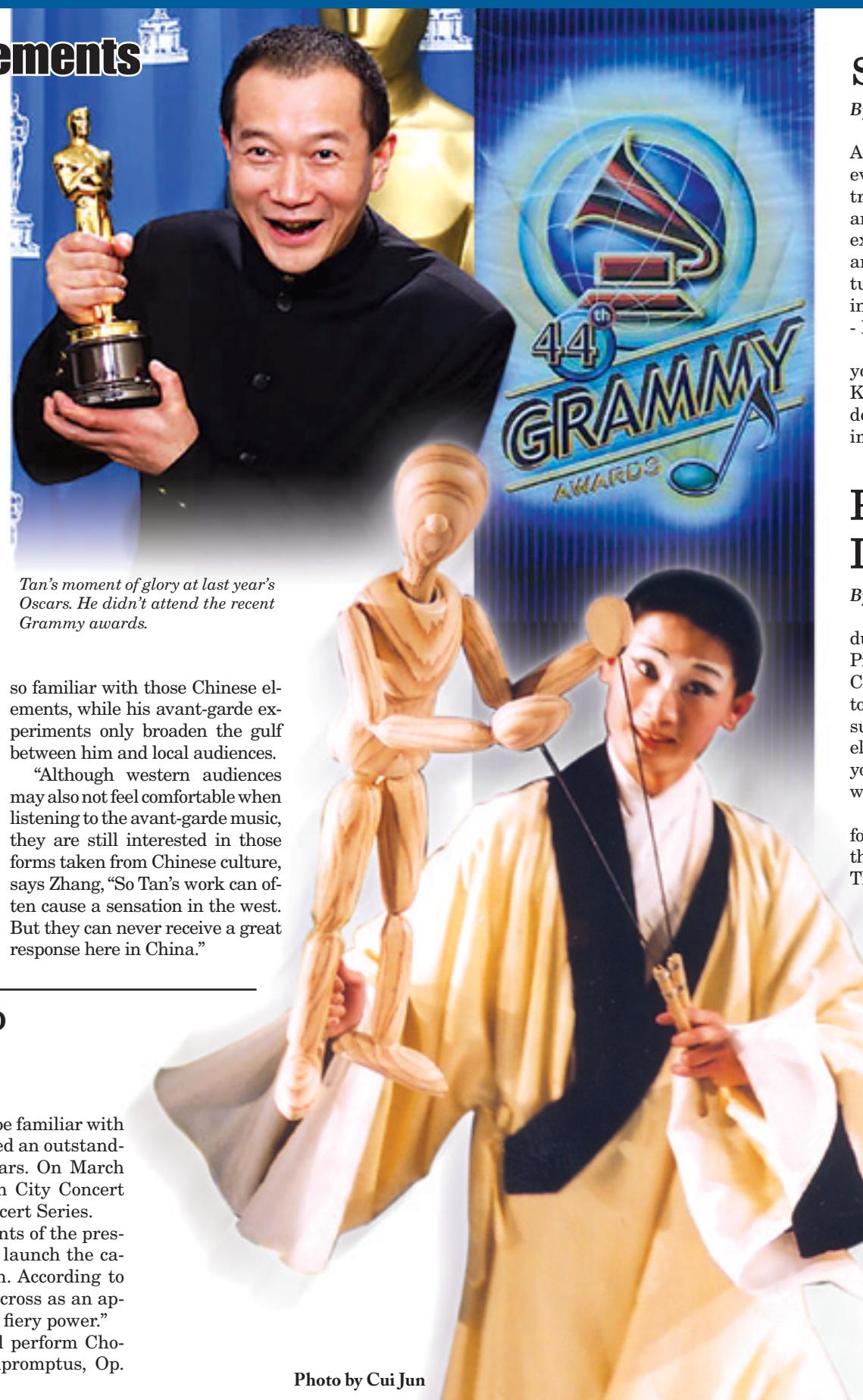
Tan Dun attributed his success at the recent Grammy Awards to his Chinese cultural roots, however response in local musical circles to his success abroad since last year's Oscar for the *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* score has been lukewarm.

Liu Xuefeng, editor of Beijing's magazine *Philharmonic* said the Grammy Awards were merely a commercialized competition like the Oscars, "Tan's success at the Grammys proves nothing." His opinion seems to be shared by many local musicians and critics.

"Tan has spent too much effort exaggerating his concept of music," says Zhou Haihong, assistant professor at the China Central Conservatory. "He should have studied more on music itself."

It seems that what makes Tan unpopular in China is actually what attracts western audiences. After learning of his win at the Grammys on February 28, Tan said, "If I didn't grasp the root all the time, I couldn't gain such honors." Zhang Zhiyu, editor of China People's Music Publishing House agrees with Tan. He says the main reason for Tan's popularity in the West was his good use of Chinese culture. Tan is a master of taking forms and themes from Chinese culture, which gives his music a more exotic flavor in the West.

Chinese audiences don't respond in the same way to Tan's work because they are



Tan's moment of glory at last year's Oscars. He didn't attend the recent Grammy awards.

so familiar with those Chinese elements, while his avant-garde experiments only broaden the gulf between him and local audiences.

"Although western audiences may also not feel comfortable when listening to the avant-garde music, they are still interested in those forms taken from Chinese culture," says Zhang, "So Tan's work can often cause a sensation in the west. But they can never receive a great response here in China."

## Renowned Pianist to Debut in Beijing

By Zhao Lin

Although Chinese audiences may not be familiar with the name, pianist Cecile Licad has enjoyed an outstanding international career for over 20 years. On March 17th, she will perform at the Forbidden City Concert Hall as part of the Imperial Garden Concert Series.

Licad was one of the youngest recipients of the prestigious Leventritt Award, which helped launch the careers of Itzak Perlman and Van Cliburn. According to the New York Times, "Ms. Licad comes across as an appealing combination of fragile grace and fiery power."

For her Beijing debut, Ms. Licad will perform Chopin's 12 Etudes, Op. 25, Schubert's Impromptus, Op. 142 and music by Liszt.

Photo by Cui Jun

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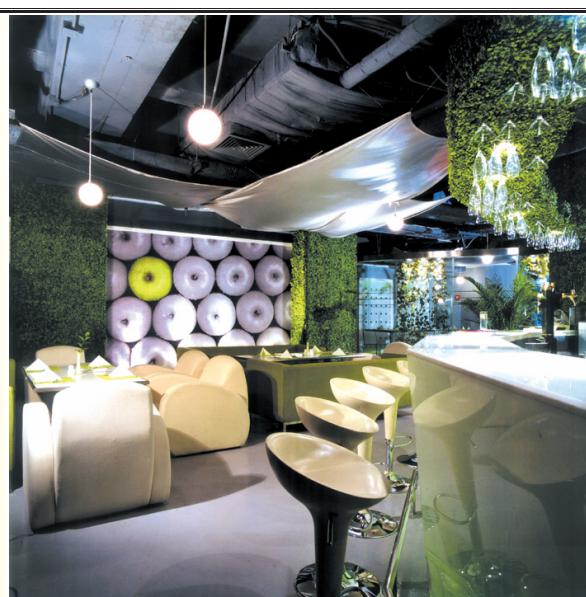
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## Spreading the Wings of Asian Art

By Zhao Pu

A group of artists from four Asian countries, inspired by their everyday life and attempting to transform such inspiration into artistic expression, present an exhibition that breaks the hierarchy between high and low cultures and changes the everyday into a special, imaginative place - *Fantasia*.

The exhibition involving 16 young artists from China, South Korea, Japan and Thailand, endeavors to spread the wings of imagination under the sky of

Asian contemporary art. It is being held at the East Modern Art Center in Beijing until March 28, 2002, with the aim of showing an actual as well as current Asia in the age of globalization.

Each of the artists holds their own perspective and approaches, while sharing the same source and theme of artistic creation - daily life. "We look forward to more interaction from the public, and try to demonstrate Asian modernization, as distinct from westernization," says Pi Li, curator of the exhibition.

## Puppet Play Leaves Audience Hanging

By Zhu Lin

After watching Li Liuyi's production of *The Tale of Puppets*, Professor Luo Jinlin of the China Central Academy of Drama said to the director "You create many surprises with your experimental elements, but I'm not clear what you are trying to say through the work."

The comment was made at a forum before the performance of the play on March 3rd at the Mini Theatre of the Beijing People's Art

Theatre. Li replied that he intended to reveal the relationships between puppets and humans, but hadn't been entirely successful.

The tale, which is based on a traditional Kunqu opera, begins with fairy maiden Zi Xia turning Meng Guan, a puppet, into a man, expecting to experience true human love with him, however she is ultimately disappointed. At the end of the play, all the characters have been turned into puppets by the puppet maker.

Puppets in various shapes and forms create

a colorful setting. "There are puppets played by real actors; puppets made by an artist sitting in one corner of the stage; and puppets lying on the ground," commented Lin Kehuan, former director of the China Youth Art Theatre, "But I think the relationship between them is not clear. None of their functions are brought out clearly."

The director spends most of the story expressing the problems caused by the basic needs of human beings. When Meng Guan is turned into a man for the first time, he asks for food and then sex with girls. Zi Xia is exhausted trying to cater to all his demands. Luo Jinlin comments that while he felt the drama never touched on the biggest distinction of puppets - that of their dependence on a human master, which prevented the drama from carrying a deeper meaning.

Li seems to be too eager to try a variety of experimental techniques. Experimental drama has developed to the point where many disparate elements can be brought together, but in *The Tale of Puppets*, these elements sometimes seem to serve no purpose other than to distract the audience from the directors' lack of ability. Li himself admits that he is limited in his ability to handle the stage.

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# Hunting for Chinese Style



## Traditional Fashions Return

By Lydia

This Spring Festival, Tang Dynasty clothes came back into style. They were seen almost everywhere; in the streets, shopping malls, restaurants, parks and especially at the New Year's Party.

A friend of mine who is an international model, frequently shows traditional clothing on runways around the world. From long, flowing Tang robes, to the shoes worn by Manchu princesses in the Qing Dynasty, she says that the clothes always attract lots of attention from the audience and fashion designers alike.

Partly due to the recent popularity of historical dramas on television, many Chinese are rediscovering the ancient world of colorful silk. The clothing adds an enhanced feeling of tradition to the Spring and Mid-Autumn Festivals, weddings and birthdays, and in fact is eye-catching at any type of get-together.

Last year there were two events that spurred the present popularity of Chinese style clothing, though the two were not closely related in any other way. One was the gorgeous qipao worn by Maggie Cheung in the movie *In the Mood of Love*. It is said that the movie staff made a tremendous effort to have an old tailor in Shanghai come out of retirement to make dozens of qipaos. The other event was at the end of the APEC summit held in Shanghai last October, when all of the heads of state that were present wore Tang jackets for a group picture. As the Chinese saying goes, "only things unique to one nation can have international significance."

What's your favorite shop, stand, bar or restaurant? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902524. Email: shopping@ynet.com.



Photos by ZhuangJian



## Store Scan

**Tian Art** (天艺) NB143, China World Shopping Mall, China World Trade Center, 65051252, 9:30am-9pm. (also at Oriental Plaza, 85186671).

**Su Luo** (苏罗), NB 141, China World Shopping Mall, 65050832, 9am-9pm.

**Mystery Garments** (玄色), NB 145, 65050373, 10am-9pm (also at Oriental Plaza, 85186436, 9:30am-9:30pm).

**Tang Clothes Street**, B1, B2, Qianbaiqian Fashion Plaza, Henderson Center, East Changan Avenue, 65188006, 10am-9pm.

**Wu Se Tu** (五色土), 1st floor of Dongcheng Children's Palace, North of Poly Center, Dongcheng District, 64153839 (including embroidery pieces art of Dong and Miao minority); 2nd floor of One World Department Store, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District, 65271227.

**Ge Ge** (格格), Zhou Zhuang, Shibalidian, Chaoyang District, 67471917. **Well** (莞尔), Hepingjie Beikou, Yinghua Dongjie, 64441165, 9am-8:30pm.

**Huiying Qipao** (惠英), 396 Dongsibeidajie, Dongcheng District, 64033832, 9am-9pm.

**Shanghai Xu** (上海徐), 3F, China Grand Hotel, World Trade Center, 1 Jianwai Dajie, 65052266 ext. 6214; 202, Lido Square, Holiday Inn Lido, 64362868, 9:30am-11pm.

**Jiangnan Buyi** (江南布衣) - Cotton Clothed from the south of the River, AA23, 1F, the Oriental Plaza, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District, 85186004, 9:30am-9:30pm.

**Fu Xuan Yi Fang** (福轩衣坊), Gongtibieilu, north of City Hotel, 64160380, 10am-8pm.

**9MM**, north gate of Worker's Stadium, 64169635.



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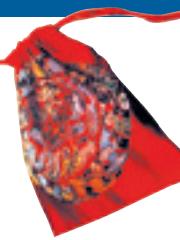
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## Yang Chenggui - The Choice of Asia's Elite

By Lydia

Yang Chenggui is very famous in Taiwan as a tailor of Mandarin gowns (qipao) for Taiwan's high class and other celebrities.

While nearly all the other brands are machine-made, his qipao are all made by hand. Yang's designs are seen on many of Asia's elite.

However, a Yang Chenggui's qipao is rather expensive. The clothing material of his qipao usually adopts Chinese embroidery. Most of the exquisite outfits are measured, designed and cut out by Yang Chenggui himself.

**Add:** 2nd floor of One World Department Store, Wangfujing, Dongcheng District. **Price:** 3,000-20,000 yuan. **Tel:** 65271272.



## Yan Bingbing - Elegant Designer

By Lydia

When you mention Chinese style clothing in Beijing, many people, including many foreigners, think of Yan Bingbing, a young and elegant female fashion designer.

She graduated from the China Arts and Crafts Institute. Yan's first fashion store was near the Canadian Embassy. At the time, it was the only store specializing in Chinese style clothing in the area. At the first party she went to with foreigners, she wore a self-designed evening dress, which attracted a lot of attention at the party, including that of the Austrian Ambassador. This party provided her with her first group of foreign customers.

Since then, Bingbing has designed a lot



of Chinese style clothes for ladies working in embassies. When Zhang Yimou's opera, *Turandot* was performing in Tai Miao, a previous Italian Ambassador's wife sat in the VIP area and her exquisite evening dress designed by Bingbing was admired by all.

Her styles are different from other brands in that they combine western fashion and traditional Chinese patterns in a creative way. Bingbing herself is not only

a successful fashion designer of elegant dresses, more importantly, she is an elegant woman.

**Add:** NB 146, China World Shopping Mall, China World Trade Center. **Open:** 9am-9pm. **Tel:** 65058768.

## Ruifuxiang - History Wrapped in Silk

By Priscilla

Beijing's Ruifuxiang silk fabric store was founded in the 19th year of the emperor Guangxu (1893), of the Qing Dynasty and is still running strong.

What makes Ruifuxiang special today, is the level of quality gained from over 100 years of experience. Most of the materials for making the clothes are ordered from Suzhou and Hangzhou. The skilled tailors first design the clothes and stitch all of the edges by hand. Finally, they add buttons and clasps in all the right places. The store stocks nearly 100 kinds of knotted buttons to choose from. Clothes can be made using a variety of fabrics, but silk is the overwhelming favorite.

On the first floor of the store (Dazhalan location) are rolls of silk of every color and pattern. The second floor has finished outfits of both Han and ethnic Chinese styles on display, mostly for women.

Along with traditional Chinese-style eve-



ning ware, you can have Kungfu outfits, pants, or just about anything else made in the store. So, if you are looking for cutting edge Western fashion, this store is not for you. However, if you want to find quality silk outfits from a store with a history, Ruifuxiang has what you are looking for.

**Add:** 5 Dazhalan Jie, Qianmen. **Open:** 9am-7:30pm. **Price:** several hundred yuan. **Tel:** 63035313. There is also a branch in Wangfujing Street, 190 Wangfujing Dajie. **Tel:** 65250764.

Pictures taken from Yan Bingbing & Tian Art

While choosing your Chinese style clothes, don't forget those cute decorations, such as bags, hats, wallets, etc. A beautiful cape matches a qipao well. Handbags and shoes are also important. Top it off with a pearl necklace, and you are ready for a traditional night out.

# Mortgage Rates Improve

By Wang Dandan

With declining Renminbi mortgage interest rates, more Chinese are buying apartments. But what about foreign currency dealings? Is there any decrease in the US \$ mortgage interest rate in China?

The US\$ prime rate - 4.75% per annum, is 1.25% less than last year. The HK\$ prime rate (5.125% per annum) is the most favorable. US\$ prime rates in different markets at any one time are normally the same, be it China or the USA. Thus although the RMB mortgage interest rates declined, they are still higher than US\$.

An example would be the Sun Crest whose developer has reached a unique agreement with HSBC under special circumstances. The Sun Crest home buyers will be offered 1% below the US\$ Prime Rate. If the market rate is 4.75%, buyers will pay 3.75% to HSBC.

Chinese domestic banks will offer RMB loans to Chinese. Foreign bank loans aim at foreign citizens plus Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan people.

Overseas and foreign banks will be able to provide US\$ and other foreign currency loans to Chinese domestic people, said Fang Xiao, deputy director of HSBC Beijing.

He also said choices available to local citizens would also depend on the pace of foreign exchange control relaxation.

Overseas and foreign banks have already applied to governmental offices. They expected to start business in the latter part of the year, added Fang.

It is apparent that after the applications are approved, Chinese will have more real estate investment choices on top of non-foreigner-approved projects.

Different currencies enjoy different interest rates as follows. It is for reference only.



shanyanghu@sina.com

Pictures by Xie Feng

Currency	RMB	US\$ / HK \$
Target client	Chinese Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland citizens	Foreign citizens plus Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan people
Means of payment	Loan	Loan
Lowest interest rate*	5.04	3.75 / 4.125

\*Rate for five years or above

## Paying Loans after Interest Rate Cuts

By Wang Dandan

The People's Bank Of China decreased loan interest on February 21, 2002. Mortgage rates also fell. People seeking bank loans after February 21, 2001 will pay back with a new form (see below). If people obtain the loans before that date, they follow the old form till January 1, 2003. Then they can start with the new form.

If there is any change of rate between February 21, 2002 and January 1, 2003, customers follow the final changed form, and banks will change interest accordingly. Following are the latest form and previous form for reference.

### New Form

Year	Annual Rate	Total Payment	Total Interest	Monthly Payment
1	4.77	10477	477	Full repayment
2	4.77	10504.32	504.32	437.68
3	4.77	10752.48	752.48	298.68
4	4.77	11004	1004	229.25
5	4.77	11259.6	1259.6	187.66
6	5.04	11608.56	1608.56	161.23
7	5.04	11888.52	1888.52	141.53
8	5.04	12171.84	2171.84	126.79
9	5.04	12459.96	2459.96	115.37
10	5.04	12751.2	2751.2	106.26
11	5.04	13046.88	3046.88	98.84
12	5.04	13347.36	3347.36	92.69
13	5.04	13651.56	3651.56	87.51
14	5.04	13959.12	3959.12	83.09
15	5.04	14272.2	4272.2	79.29
16	5.04	14588.16	4588.16	75.98
17	5.04	14908.32	4908.32	73.08
18	5.04	15232.32	5232.32	70.52
19	5.04	15561	5561	68.25
20	5.04	15892.8	5892.8	66.22
21	5.04	16228.8	6228.8	64.4
22	5.04	16566	6566	62.75
23	5.04	16910.52	6910.52	61.27
24	5.04	17256.96	7256.96	59.92
25	5.04	17607	7607	58.69
26	5.04	178961.84	7961.84	57.57
27	5.04	18318.96	8318.96	56.54
28	5.04	18681.6	8681.6	55.5
29	5.04	19046.04	9046.04	54.73
30	5.04	19414.8	9414.8	53.93

### Old Form

1	5.31	10531.00	531.00	Full repayment
2	5.31	10562.40	562.40	440.10
3	5.31	10839.60	839.60	301.10
4	5.31	11121.60	1121.60	231.70
5	5.31	11408.40	1408.40	190.14
6	5.58	11790.00	1790.00	163.75
7	5.58	12102.72	2102.72	144.08
8	5.58	12420.48	2420.48	129.38
9	5.58	12742.92	2742.92	117.99
10	5.58	13070.40	3070.40	108.92
11	5.58	13403.28	3403.28	101.54
12	5.58	13741.92	3741.92	95.43
13	5.58	14083.68	4083.68	90.28
14	5.58	14431.20	4431.20	85.90
15	5.58	14783.40	4783.40	82.13
16	5.58	15141.12	5141.12	78.86
17	5.58	15504.00	5504.00	76.00
18	5.58	15869.52	5869.52	73.47
19	5.58	16242.72	6242.72	71.24
20	5.58	16617.60	6617.60	69.24
21	5.58	16997.40	6997.40	67.45
22	5.58	17384.40	7384.40	65.85
23	5.58	17774.40	7774.40	64.40
24	5.58	18167.04	8167.04	63.08
25	5.58	18567.00	8567.00	61.89
26	5.58	18969.60	8969.60	60.80
27	5.58	19375.20	9375.20	59.80
28	5.58	19787.04	9787.04	58.89
29	5.58	20201.40	10201.40	58.05
30	5.58	20620.80	10620.80	57.28

## Landmark Promotes Apartment Offer

By Hydie

Beijing Landmark Apartments is providing a promotional rent of US\$1500/month 59 square meter apartments (type A3). The price includes service charge and government tax and the offer lasts until April 30, 2002.

Free services include use of gymnasium equipment and sauna, kitchen facilities including fridge, cutlery and micro-wave oven, three big bottles of distilled water a month and newspapers.

The apartment and office towers are situated in the Third Ring Road

The complex has seven types of apartment including one-bedroom (42 square meters), two-bedroom (97 square meters) and three-bedroom (153 square meters).

Prices range from US\$1,221 to 4,514. For more detail information, call 6590-6688.

## China World Hotel Receives Two Top Awards

By Hydie

China World Hotel has won the 2002 "Excellent Team Award" of the Purple Forbidden Cup from the Beijing Tourism Administration. The hotel also received the Five Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Science.

The hotel was awarded the excellent team award for its fifth consecutive year and the Diamond Award for a sixth consecutive year.

The Purple Forbidden Cup is governed by Beijing Tourism Administration trustees that oversee the decision to recognize establishments nationwide for their outstanding commitment to hospitality within their category and classification. The American Academy of Hospitality Sciences sponsors the only international award program that honors establishments with its symbol of excellence, the Five Star Diamond Award.

**"HOUSING"** welcomes your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with? Our E-mail: [housing@ynet.com](mailto:housing@ynet.com)  
Tel: 13910220118 or 65902521 Fax: 65902525

Editor: JIAN RONG Designer: PANG LEI

# Double Deposit

## If developer makes alterations without proper consultation

By Lei Qinping

Lisa wanted to buy a bigger apartment to live with her parents. After months of checking building projects, Lisa decides to buy an apartment near her office.

She signed a presale contract and receives a mortgage on the two-storey apartment.

As the project was not complete, the delivery deadline was agreed for 18 months after signing.

The delivery date arrived, but when Lisa and her husband went to the apartment, Lisa felt that something was wrong.

She checked the original blueprint attached to the contract and realized the bathroom on the second floor was moved from the west to the eastern side of the apartment.

In the original plan, from the top of the stairs Lisa entered the living room, but now she found she faced a bathroom instead. What's more, she has to pass through the bathroom to enter the room.

The developer explained the reason they made the change was that the bathroom on the first floor was located on the eastern side.

The change will allow the water pipes to work better. If there was no change, there would be two sets of pipes on each side and the pipes would also occupy the living room.

Both sides have their reasons and neither could convince the other. Lisa wanted to refuse the apartment.

The developer's manager said they had made the change out of consideration for the client and Lisa had no reason



Legal Aid

shanyanghu@sina.com

Guest

Target: Jianguo Hotel

When: 16:30-17:30, Tuesday, Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>

Hotel Detective: Li Dan

Bitterli, Switzerland

You wouldn't believe it but I am an old guest and friend of this hotel. I came here 20 years ago even before the grand opening and each year when I come to Beijing I live here. I especially love the cozy atmosphere in the lobby while people sit and talk freely, not like other hotels, which have a very high ceiling and big lobby that might make me a little lost.

David Brien, Canada

There are many things I'd love to mention; nice and clean, good room service, central location etc. I love the feeling of sitting in the lobby and looking out of window at the small fountain. It lends inner peace. There is always somebody available when you need them. If there's one thing that should be improved, I think they could have a better fitness center.

## Exhibitions



## China Performing Arts Fair &amp; 2002 ISPA International Forum

China National Culture & Art Co. Ltd (CNCAC) is hosting the first China Performing Arts Fair in conjunction with the International Society for the Performing Arts International Forum Beijing. Topics include: current trends and development

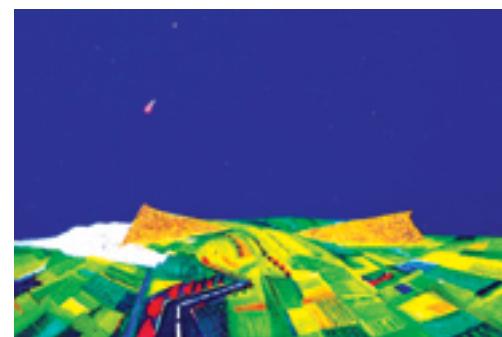
**Where:** China Science-Technology Meeting Exhibition Center, Madian. **When:** March 8-11. **Tel:** 65546512, 62351678.



**AI Exhibition**  
An exhibition about AI in China and abroad is now showing at the New Oriental Plaza sponsored by Sony (China) Limited. Every child

visiting the exhibition can have a guide, introducing him/her to the robots' classification, development and situation.

**Where:** the New Oriental Plaza, the 2nd floor of W1, Room 202, 1 Chang'an Avenue. **When:** till March 31. **Admission:** 60 yuan. **Tel:** 65880978 / 65880979 (Guo Yu and Li Xi).



## Walking Together -Joint Painting Exhibition

Works by Song Zhong, Wang Tiantian, Huang Yuxing, all of whom are under 30 years old and graduated from the Central Art Academy. **Where:** north end of Silk East

## Hiking

**A Ming village overnight hike**  
**Where:** Zhaotang County, west of Beijing.

**When:** March 9-10, two days.

What to bring: wash bag (there will be no shower but will be clean water. And you have to be prepared to use Chinese toilets.)

**Optional:** cards, Majiang, books, sketch book, bed sheet.

The route: This village is known for its network of over 70 courtyards, built 400 years ago. Architects call this village "the living museum" of Chinese farm housing. One can walk from one house to the other, from one end of the village to the other with out using the streets. This trip is suitable for everyone. Two hikes are offered. One is on Sat afternoon and one Sun morning. People can join one or both or just stay in the village sketching, painting or taking pictures.

Leave: March 9, 9am at the Lido, outside Starbucks.

Come back: March 10, 4-5pm.

Cost: 500 yuan per person. Including: round trip transportation, morning tea, accommodation, entrance fees, snacks, beverages, two lunches, dinner, breakfast and professional guide.

## Weather

**Friday**  
March 8  
Cloudy  
Max: 12C. Min: 3C.

**Saturday**  
March 9  
Cloudy to clear  
Max: 14C. Min: 2C.

**Monday**  
March 11  
Clear to cloudy  
Max: 15C. Min: 1C.

**Wednesday**  
March 13  
Cloudy  
Max: 14C. Min: 3C.

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at [bjtodayinfo@ynet.com](mailto:bjtodayinfo@ynet.com) or call 65902520. By Priscilla / Lydia

Street, Chaoyang District.

## Clothing of Dreams

Painting Exhibition of Yan Mingyan  
This exhibition focuses on the artist's creation of miniature clothes, bespectacled with paint.

**Where:** Front Hallway Space, Soka Art Center. **When:** March 9-31, 10am-9pm. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65860344.



## Print Making Exhibition of Eight Artists

Works by eight artists, Tan Ping, Wen Zhongyan, etc.

**Where:** Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwenmen. **When:** Mar 9-31, 10am-5pm, closed on Mon. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65251005.

## Water Wash &amp; Pencil Drawings Exhibition

**Where:** West hall of Wan Fung Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District. **When:** March 9-20. **Admission:** free. **Tel:** 65233320.



## Oil Painting Exhibition

By Yang Chun Bai Xue, Liu Li, Yang Dae-wei.

**Where:** Qin Gallery, 38A Fangcaodi Beijie. **When:** March 10-15, 9:30am-6pm. **Tel:** 65074062.

## Activities



## Hong Kong All-stars Weekend

Featuring DJs Roy Malig and Teng Boon. Teng Boon DJ is a half Chinese half-Dutch who holds a very strong affinity to his Asian side and represents both Hong Kong and Asia. He holds down weekly residencies at HK's most influential clubs, including Drop, Liquid, Phi-b and Club Ing. Roy Malig is regarded as "The Godfather" of the Hong Kong club & music scene. He has mixing skills that easily match the skill of any International DJ and has been around since the days of disco & 70's funk to house & garage right up to the present day trance & progressive.

**Where:** Club Vogue, Sanlitun, Xindongjie. **When:** March 8, 9. **Admission:** 100 yuan pre-sale pass (for both Friday and Saturday). 100 yuan at the door (each night). P.S. International Women's Day on March 8, so free entry before midnight

for all women. **Where to buy:** Public Space, Neo Lounge and Club Vogue. **Contact:** 13001135089 (Henry), 13910062444 (Slab), [slab@mac.com](mailto:slab@mac.com).

## Belgian Beer Tasting

The Hidden Tree will hold a Belgian Beer Tasting on March 13. Admission includes a card worth 15-20 beers. Each person may taste a maximum of 10 different beers, served in half glasses. There will be a wide selection of beers; fruit beers, abbey beers, strong beers, very strong beers, even chocolate beer. This place can only hold 150 people, so show up early.

**Where:** Hidden Tree, South Sanlitun Bar Street. **When:** March 13, 6:30pm. **Admission:** 125 RMB before Mar 13, 150 RMB at the door. **Where to buy:** Hidden Tree.

## The 9th Irish Network China St. Patrick's Day Ball

Ireland's national day will be celebrated when the 9th Irish Network China St. Patrick's Day Ball takes place in Beijing. An expected 650 revelers will be entertained by Ireland's top traditional group, De Danaan. Classical and pop music groups will also be on hand.

**Where:** 2F, main ballroom, Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, Dongsanhuanlu. **When:** March 16, drink reception 7pm; dinner, 8pm. **Admission:** 750 yuan. **Email:** [hagan@95777.com](mailto:hagan@95777.com)

## Sports &amp; Health

## Shape for the Summer

Any women who joins Evolution Fitness for six months or more and before March 15, will not have to pay a joining fee (save 1,500 yuan). Tell others about this, and you will get one free month added to your membership if they join.

**Where:** Evolution Fitness Center. **When:** until March 15. **Tel:** 65670266.

## Women's Month Health Talks

Matt, the general manager of the Evolution Fitness Center and experts from Vista Clinic will help women to learn more about their health.

**Where:** Evolution Fitness Center, Jianwai Dajie, Dabai Office Building. **When:** March 13, 7:30-8:45pm. Women's fitness - Fact and Fallacious, by

Matt Lewis (Bilingual); March 14, 7:30-8:45pm, Preventing cancer for women, by experts from Vista Clinic (In Chinese); March 15, 7:30-8:45pm, Preventing cancer for women, by experts from Vista Clinic (in English). **Admission:** 30 yuan for members and 50 yuan for non-members. Please book a seat before March 8. **Tel:** 65670266

## Beijing Hash House Harriers - The Drinking Club with a Running Problem

Every Sunday people will gather to run for a while then go to a restaurant to have dinner.

**Where:** Mexican Wave, 150 meters north of Guiyu Mansion. **When:** March 10, 2:30pm. **Admission:** 50 yuan. **Email:** [RDRhead@uop.com](mailto:RDRhead@uop.com)

## Discount

## International Famous Brand Discount

Italian Armani, 40-70%; The North Face, 40-60%; Angle, 40-65%.

**Where:** 6th floor, Beijing Lufthansa Friendship Shopping City, 52 Liang-

maiqiao, Chaoyang District, bus 402, 413 to Liangmaiqiao.

**When:** till Mar 17, 9am

**Tel:** 64651188

## Movies

## Chinese Movie with English Subtitles

## Emergency Landing

Directed by Zhang Jianya, starring Xu Fan, You Yong, 2000, 110 minutes. A commercial airplane takes off from a large municipal airport in China. A few minutes into the flight, the captain notices a malfunction in the landing gear, meaning that the plane will be unable to make a normal landing. He contacts the tower and is instructed to attempt to return to the airport. Will they land safely or won't they? And then what happens? Many people in China have wanted to know the answer to these questions. When this was shown in Shanghai last year it broke all previous records for ticket sales. It's as exciting a "blockbuster" as has ever been produced in China

**Where:** Project Hall, Beijing Film Academy, 4 Xituchenglu, Haidian District. **When:** the 1st period, March 7-10, the 2nd, March 14-17. **Tel:** 65320780/81/82.



## French Movie

## Tirez sur le pianiste, Shoot the Piano Player

Directed by Francois Truffaut (1932-1984), 1960, 85 minutes.

**Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee Shop, the Loft. **When:** March 9, 7pm, March 10, 3pm. **Tel:** 62791280, 65065592.



**Where:** Space for Imagination Coffee Shop, the Loft. **When:** March 9, 7pm, March 10, 3pm. **Tel:** 62791280, 65065592.

## Performance



## Music

## Stairway to Music 2002 Series

A brief history of dance by Ou Jianping.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** March 10, 7:30pm. **Admission:** 10 yuan. **Tel:** 65598285.

## Music at Bars

Underground rock'n'roll, Get Lucky Bar, March, 8, 9, 15, 16, 9pm, 64299109. A new six member Filipino band, "The Knights," at Sgt. Pepper's will play favorites from the 60's, 70's and 80's knightly from Tue. To Sun. from 9pm-2am. Sgt. Pepper's, west gate of Chaoyang Park, 65008088.

## Tibetan Century Symphony Concert

The Central Opera Symphony Orchestra will combine Tibetan folk music with modern symphonic music to form a unique sound, including the performance of four young Tibetan singers.

**Where:** Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. **When:** March 14, 7:30pm. **Tel:** 65598285.

## Band Music

Experience the strong flavor of the American West. Band show every night.

**Where:** Tonight 8 O'clock, 54 Baishiqiao, Haidian District, bus 904, 708 to Baishiqiao. **When:** till Mar 11, 6pm. **Tel:** 88380103, 88361531

## batics

**Where:** Lizheng Bar, opposite Haidian Book City, Haidian District. **When:** Friday & Saturday, 9:30pm. **Tel:** 62184228

## Peking Opera

Beijing Feng Lei Peking Opera Troupe. WenShaoGuan, Yu Zhou Feng, Jin Chi Da Peng.

**Where:** Huguang Guild, 3 Hufanglu, Xuanwu District. **When:** March 9, 2:30pm.

Every night there is a performance. From March 8 to 15, Ba Wang Bie Ji, Qiu Jiang, Tian Nu San Hua, Shi Zi Lou, Kong Cheng Ji will be performed.

**Admission:** 100-180 yuan, 200, 380 yuan for box seats. **Tel:** 63518284.

## Football Watching

Attention Football Fans, live and taped matches on the big screen.

Friday, 12am, Italian Series A, Lecce vs Roma; 6:30 pm, Spanish Primera Liga Spanish League Highlights; 7pm, European Championships Football focus!! European preview, 9pm, Party!!! Cheap Mix drinks plus the best Alternative in town.

Saturday, 12:30, Liverpool vs Newcastle; 8pm, Arsenal vs Charlton; 10pm, Blackburn vs West Ham.

Sunday, 12:00 World Cup World Cup preview "Road to World Cup"; 7:25pm, English FA CUP English FA CUP - Quarterfinal, Live! 10pm, Newcastle United vs Aston Villa.

**Where:** 10 Taipingzhuang, near

Red House Hotel, Chunxiu, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District. **Tel:** 64150988/64167786.

## 2002 IRB World Sevens Series

**Where:** the Olympic Sports Center, Yuyuncun. **When:** March 16, 8:35am-March 17, 5:45pm. **Admission:** 100-400 yuan. **Tel:** 65672485

(Catherine Finch). **Web:** [hosting.sohu.net/beijing7s](http://hosting.sohu.net/beijing7s)

## Dining Out

## A Gourmet Trip to Italy at

Wise monks, chaste widows and spring waters babble at:

The restored Ci Shan Temple at Tian Tai Mountain reopens to tourists. It offers an ideal place to witness the early signs of spring.

Cultural Tour

By Jiang Zhong

They come back to Beijing bearing bottles, often with enough water to last a week. For as word spreads that the Tian Tai Mountain (天太山) springs are coming out of hibernation, Beijingers will take the two-hour drive out to Shijingshan this weekend.

"Mountain of 800 meters with 3,000 springs" runs the local rhyme, although this is a tourist destination seldom mentioned in guidebooks.

Shijingshan government says it has spent the last three years cleaning up the Capital Steel Works (首都钢铁公司) and it is now possible to spend a smoke-free day in the district. Indeed, tourists to the district will no longer return home with dirty collars they used to do.

Locals have built shelters to protect the springs from pollution and to enable visitors to pay them for the water.

Built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Ci Shan Temple (慈善寺) boasts Tian Tai's most famous springs. Although Ci Shan Temple is not an ideal place for satisfying curiosity about the history of local religious beliefs, it offers an ideal leisurely getaway.

Nearly all the temple springs have run dry, except the one beside the Temple of the Dragon King (龙王庙). Locals often come to drink the water to cure diseases and to brighten up their eyes.

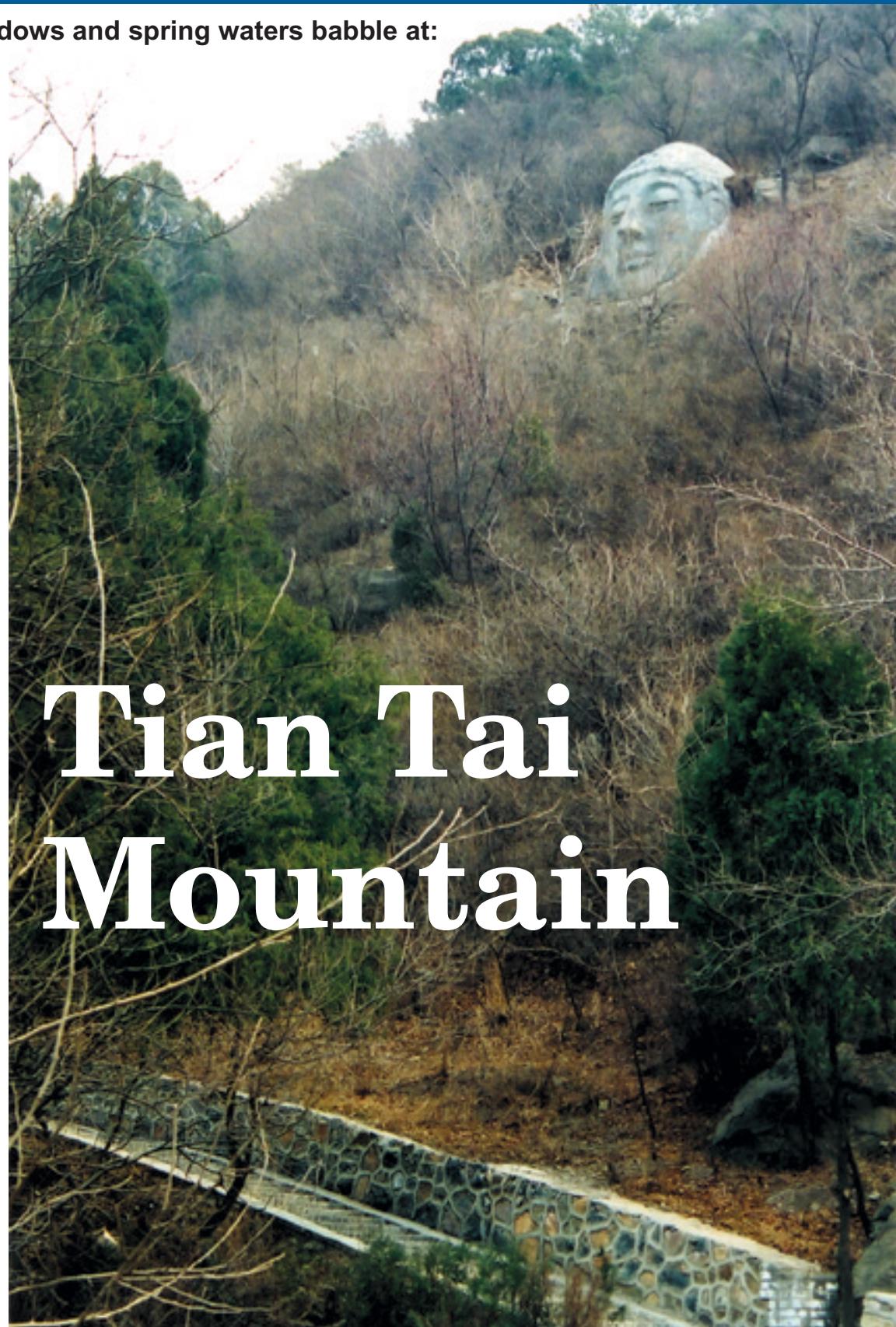
No historic records exist except some lines in the Yongle Canon (永乐大典 a comprehensive book collection composed in 1408 during the reign of Ming Dynasty Emperor Yongle) about when the temple was founded.

A short introduction said the temple was built by the locals for worshiping both Buddhist and Taoist deities. Most of the gods worshipped at the temple were unknown to the imperial temples around Beijing. They were the characters of mythologies.

Of the original buildings, only Da Bei (大悲 Big Mercy) Hall in the center of the main complex has survived, according to the gatekeeper. The rest have been restored.

The architects depended on inscriptions carved in stone tablets lying around the temples or buried underground to figure out which god went where. The tablets were then erected in a courtyard beside Da Bei Hall.

The rebuilt temple, to be frank, fails to recapture its earlier splendor. The harmony has been lost. Stylish paintings on the beams have been replaced



Buddha watches over Ci Shan Temple

Photos by Zhao Shiyu



This ancient stupa used to house bones

by gaudy imitations with glittering outlines. The old paintings were outlined by golden thread, lending a style of relief. But the modern versions omit the use of thread. The artisans have daubed gold paint over the gaps in the old outlines.

Complex carvings adorn the roof of Da Bei Hall, which along with its two side halls are a must-see. The rooftop ridge features an interesting carving. Seen from front, two dragons play with a fireball, while from the rear two phoenixes fly over clouds.

For feminists, the plaques on the east and west walls of Da Bei Hall make for fun reading. They bear the names of 560 widows who remained loyal to their husbands after death and are honored for their chastity by locals and even emperors. If a widow lasted 50 years or longer, a stone archway would often be built in praise of her sincerity to her husband.

Some 30 meters beneath the corridor standing at the cliff outside Da Bei, a stone tablet nestles low in the bushes, indicating the location of the Eunuch Lirong tomb. Beside the tablet are statues of court officials and horses.

To find out more about the temple, take the road less traveled to a cottage. About 40 meters from the entrance to the temple, a wooden sign bears three Chinese characters "Gu Fo Ta (古佛

塔 Ancient Stupa)". Take the narrow path beside it. In 10 minutes, find a 10-meter gray brick stupa. Another five minutes and there's a cottage. Its owner Zhao Wen has stories.

It is said Emperor Shunzhi (1644-1662) of the Qing Dynasty became a monk in Ci Shan Temple after he handed the throne to Kangxi (1662-1723). After his death, his flesh allegedly did not decay. The monks of the temple worshipped him as Mo Wang (Ruler of Devils), and built a hall to store his body. The temple in 1943 caught fire and locals came to help extinguish it. Zhao says his father lent a hand in trying to save the imperial flesh, but removed only a basket of bones.

Zhao's mate, Hui Shun, a monk from neighboring Lingguang Temple (灵光寺) of Ba Da Chu (八大处) of Haidian District, resides in the cottage at the moment and will point to his three-hour hike route.

**Spring tour to Shijingshan**

**First stop:** Ci Shan Temple at Tian Tai Mountain

**Getting there:**

By bus: Bus 336 from Pingguoyuan (苹果园) Subway Station to Wulituo (五里坨), then taxi to Tanyu (潭峪) Village (15 minutes, 20 yuan). Alternatively, walk from Wulituo to village along Tanyu Road (about one hour). Villagers will show you steps to the temple.

By car: Drive west on Chang'an Avenue, follow Beixin'an Road (北新安路) right from the main entrance to Capital Steel Works. Don't turn at the crossroads, but enter Jinding Xijie (金顶西街). Drive along the street for about 15 minutes until you see a blue sign with Chinese characters 'Ci Shan Si' (慈善寺) on your right. Keep going. You will see at least four such signs en route before Tanyu Village. Park your car free by the toilet before the village or, at the village for two yuan.

**Admittance:** 8 yuan for temple

**Second stop:** Fahai Temple (法海寺)

**Getting there:** when you finish your trip to Ci Shan Temple, go back to Wulituo Bus Stop, drive eastward to Moshikou Dajie (模式口大街), or bus 336 to Shougang Xiaoqu (首钢小区). Moshikou Dajie is actually a narrow street of no more than 700 meters long. Drive along the street to a busy fair, turn left and park your car before the former entrance to the temple. You can also drive for another 100 meters to its current entrance at the mountain side.

**Attractions:** Fahai Temple on Moshikou Street is famous for its four frescoes, bravely hidden and preserved during the Cultural Revolution. The frescoes stretch for 236.7 square meters of dazzling invention in the Shrine of Greatness and Magnificence.

Beijing government paid for reproduced copies to be displayed in the Hall of Yaoshi as the originals are too delicate for public display.

The frescoes were completed by 15 imperial court painters including Zhang Ping, Wang Yi, Gu Xing, Li Yuan and Xu Fu. Children should be escorted through the halls in case of fresco fright. Exhibitions of frescos in Changle Palace in Shanxi Province and Dunhuang, and exhibitions of cliff painting found around China are also presented at the temple.

**Open:** 9am-4pm

**Admittance:** 10 yuan for the frescos

**Third stop:** Longquan Temple (龙泉寺)

**Getting there:** This temple is near Fahai Temple. You can see the temple on your way to Fahai Temple.

**Tips:** The temple is under repair. Moshikou Dajie features some temple relics. The graveyard of the Eunuch Tianyi could also be included in your travel plan if time permits.



The tower at the entrance to Ci Shan Temple used to house Wenchangjun, the god of literacy



Tablet forest outside the Da Bei Hall



Locals draw spring water from this well



Complex carvings adorn the roof of Da Bei Hall



The incense burner behind the Da Bei Hall is made from one stone block



Entrance to Fahai Temple

## Tiny Tiananmen in Yunnan

By Jiang Zhong

The eastern entrance to Jianshui (建水) Town, Jianshui County, Yunnan, has so far survived all that Chinese history could throw at it.

Locally dubbed "Tiny Tiananmen", Chaoyang Tower features a similar style to the Heavenly Peace Gate (天安门). Jianshui, 299 kilometers south of Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province was founded in 810 AD. The town first adopted earth as the construction material. In 1387, the town expanded and bricks replaced the earth. The south, north and west entrances were destroyed by wars and earthquakes.

Built in 1389, Chaoyang Tower opened 28 years earlier than Tiananmen Gate. The three-story, 24.5-meter tower has 48 columns. Columns and beams form the longlasting skeleton of the tower. The roof features three eaves. Under the uppermost, hangs calligraphy

"The King of Southeast China" hangs in the east, and Flying Clouds in the west.

Jianshui residents will recommend Wen Temple as the second-largest Confucian temple in China, second only to Qufu itself.

Bamboos or grass roofs indicate

the residences of Hani. Earth homes belong to Yi Nationality and those covered with tiles belong to Han Nationality. Among the residences, Zhu's Garden is the largest and the most magnificent. This Qing-style residence has 42 courtyards and a 4-meter cactus.

**Outside Jianshui**

Tuanshan Village (团山村), 13 kilometers from Jianshui, houses even older residences. The doors of local families are never locked and always open to visitors. Owners offer their lounges to visitors to savor the splendor of the town's wooden and brick

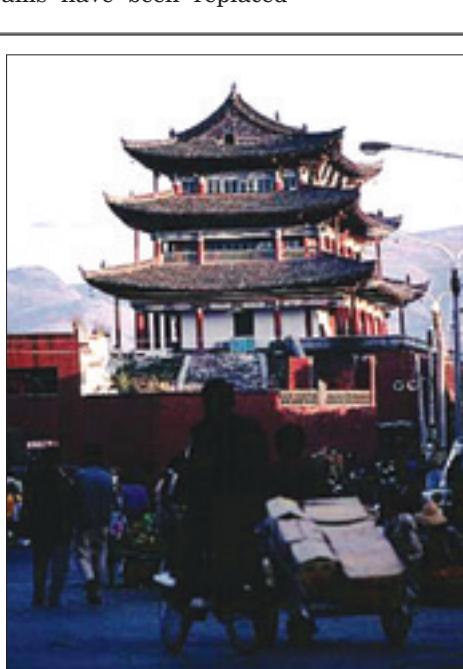
carvings.

Every spring and summer, flying tourists flock to the 4000-meter-long Swallow Cave. They are feathered visitors who hail from Malaysia and Indonesia.

**Getting there:** plane or train to Kunming, then bus (40 buses leave for Jianshui between 7am and 10pm daily) to Jianshui County. The bus tour will take five or six hours.

You can take a bus to Tuanshan Village, 13 kilometers, 6 yuan. A taxi will cost 60 yuan for the same distance.

**Tips:** It is better to live with a local family for one or two nights.



Chinawide

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